一条ゆかり
Ichijo Yukari
プライド
2
Pride
QUEEN'S COMICS

PRIDE 2

Yukari Ichijo

CHORUS
コーラス
QUEEN'S COMICS
クイーンズ コミックス

PRIDE 2

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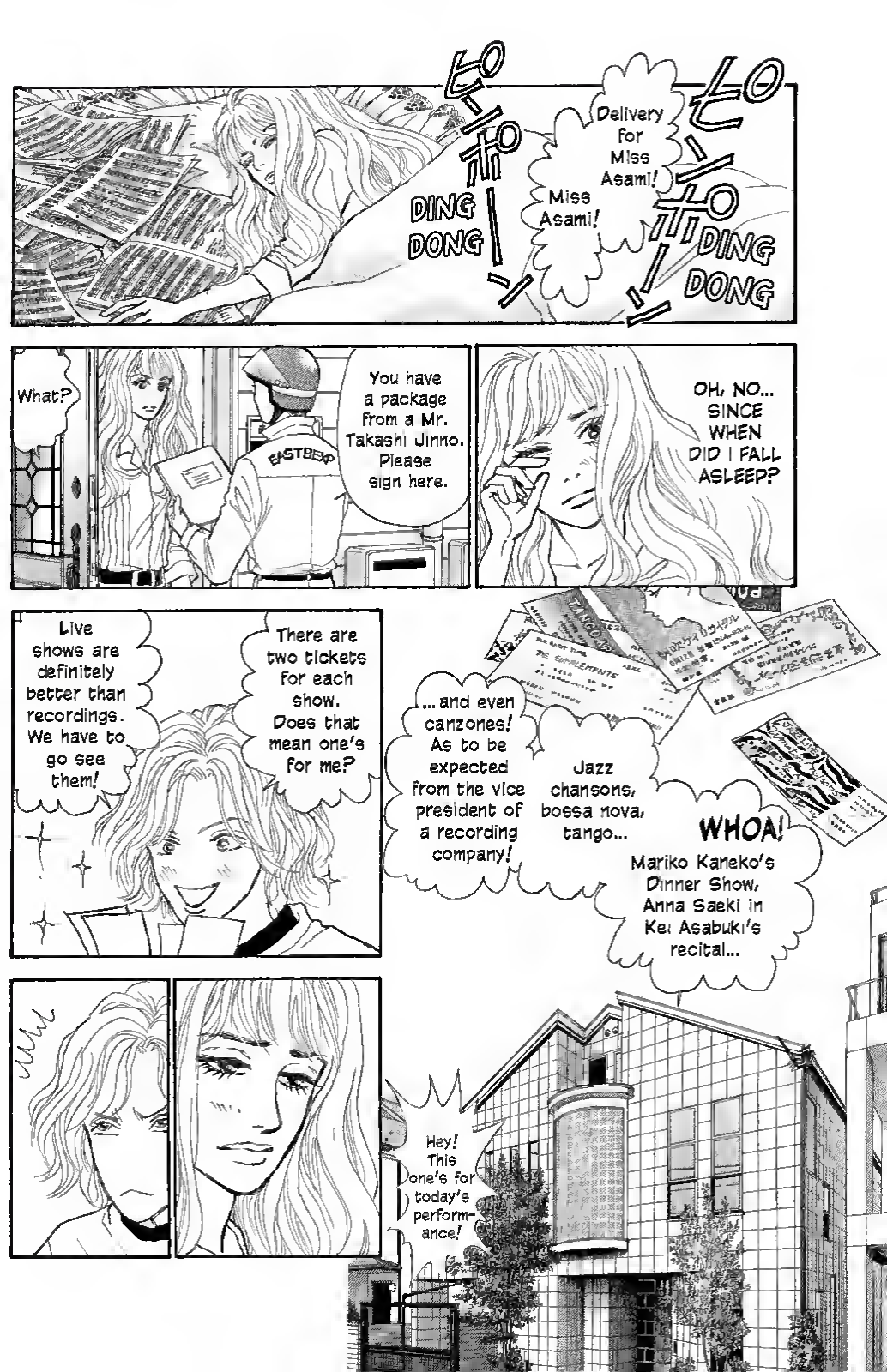
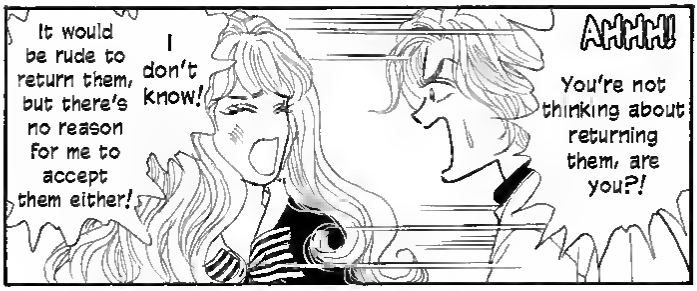
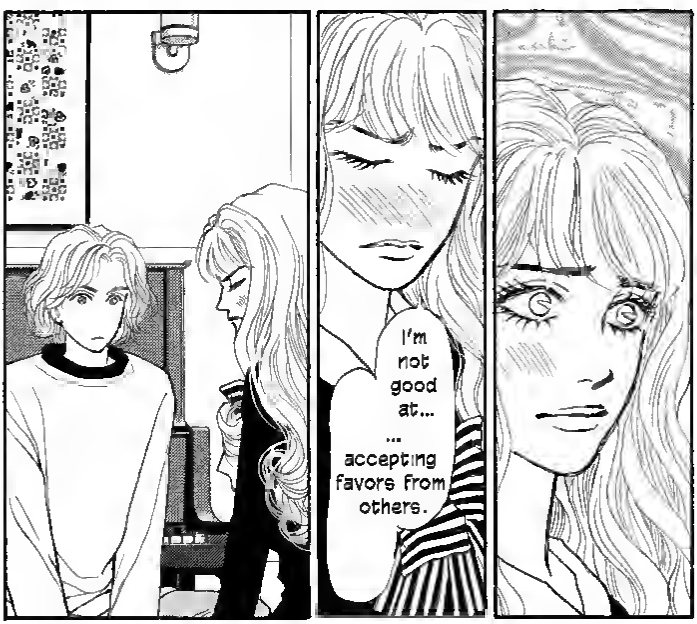
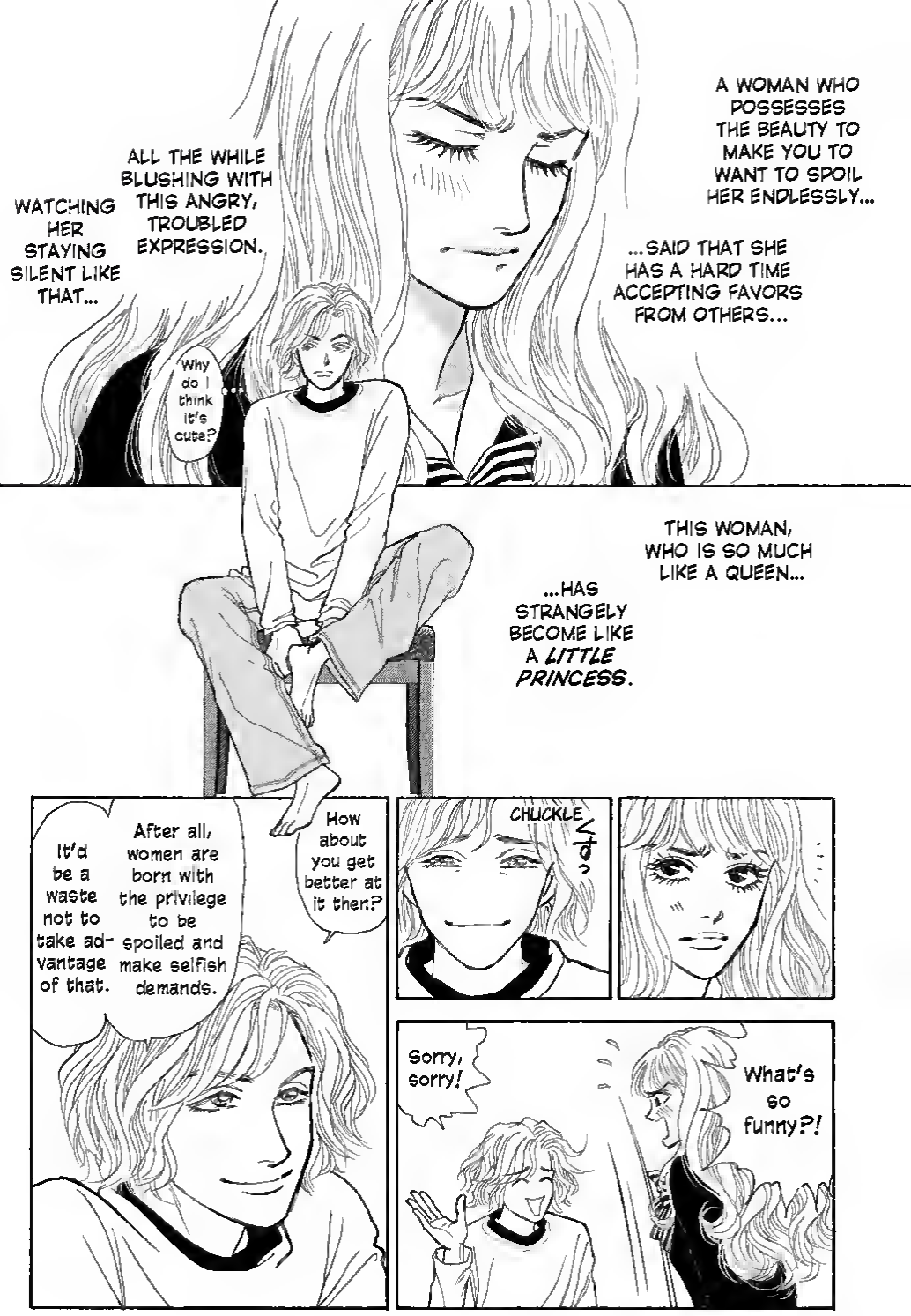
I'm Midorikawa from the voice department. I saw the notice on the bulletin board.
Ah, Miss Midorikawa? It's about your tuition for the semester.
STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE
TACHIKAWA MUSIC COLLEGE
DING DONG
ピンポーン
Were you aware of this?
The payment deadline has passed.
Reception is open until 4 PM
Yes...

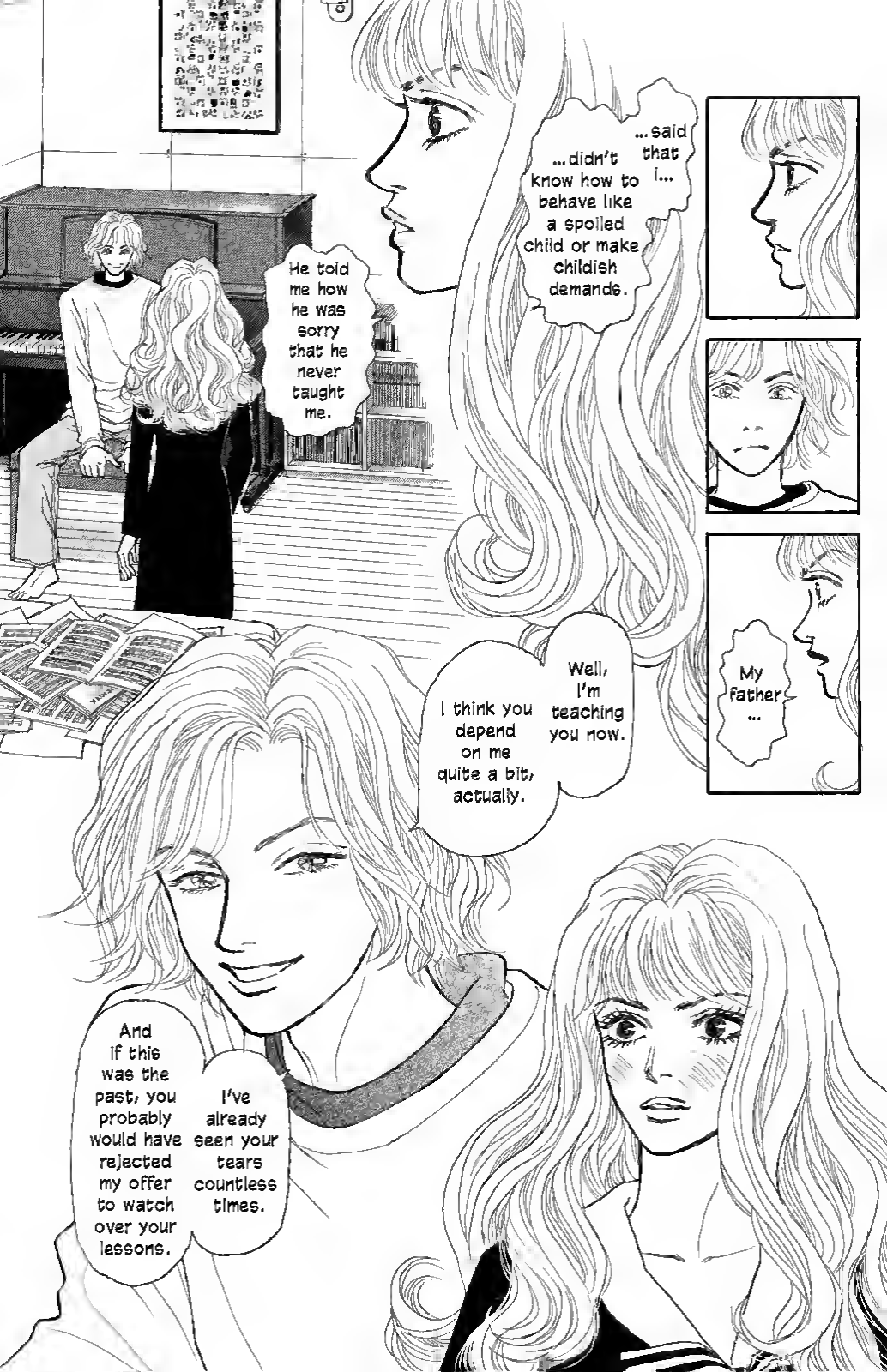

DING DONG
Miss Asami!
Delivery for Miss Asami!
DING DONG
What?
You have a package from a Mr. Takashi Jinno. Please sign here.
EASTBEAT
OH, NO... SINCE WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?
Live shows are definitely better than recordings. We have to go see them!
There are two tickets for each show. Does that mean one's for me?
...and even canzones! As to be expected from the vice president of a recording company!
Jazz chansons, bossa nova, tango...
WHOA!
Mariko Kaneko's Dinner Show, Anna Saeki in Kei Asabuki's recital...
Hey! This one's for today's performance!

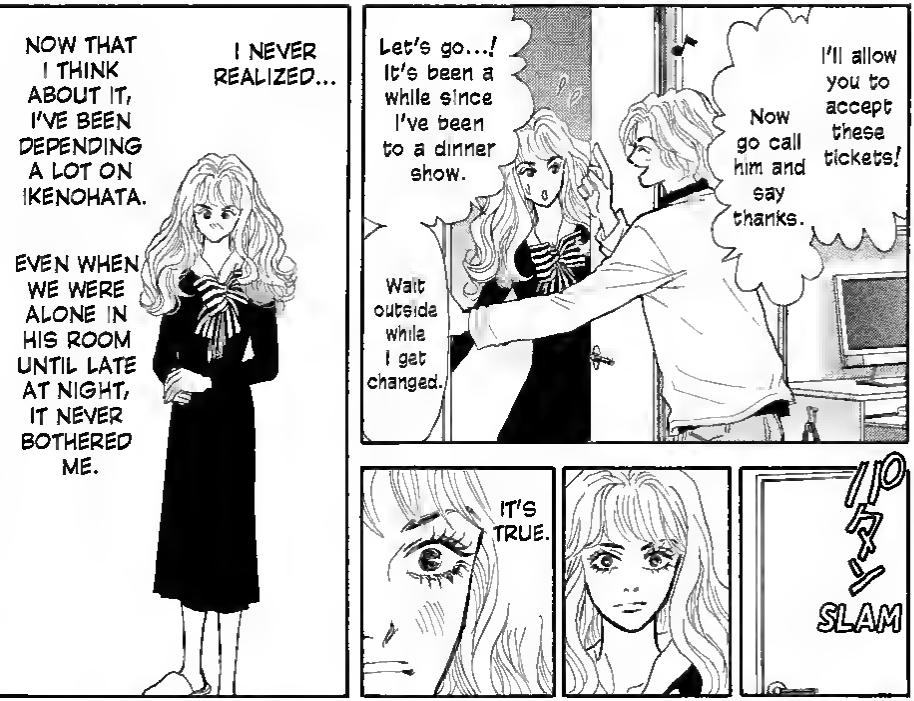

It would be rude to return them, but there's no reason for me to accept them either!
I don't know!
Arhhh!
You're not thinking about returning them, are you?!

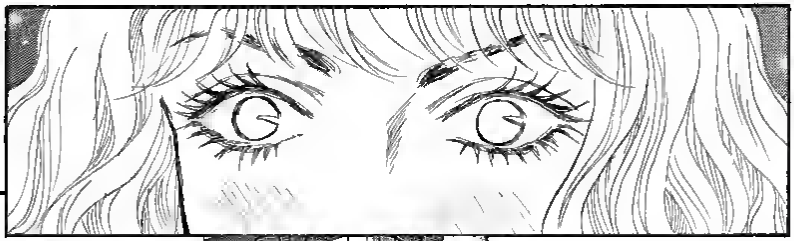
As long as you keep thinking that way, you'll never be able to make any friends!
There's nothing wrong with accepting someone's good-will...
Since Mr. Jinno went out of his way to send them, we should go!
Argh! Not again!

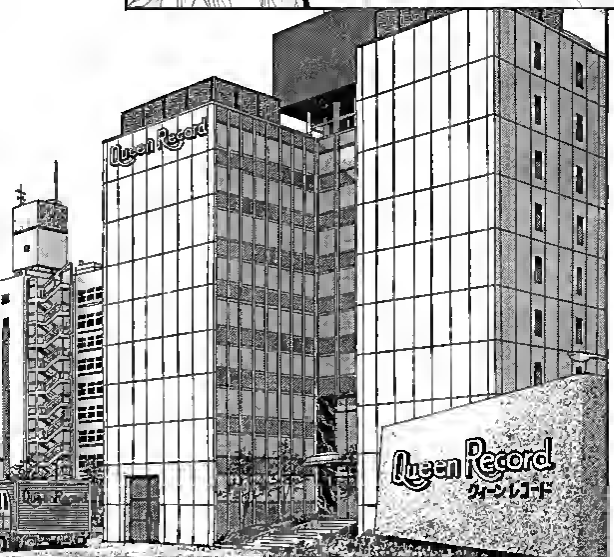

I'm not good at...
... accepting favors from others.


A WOMAN WHO POSSESSES THE BEAUTY TO MAKE YOU TO WANT TO SPOIL HER ENDLESSLY...
...SAID THAT SHE HAS A HARD TIME ACCEPTING FAVORS FROM OTHERS...
ALL THE WHILE BLUSHING WITH THIS ANGRY, TROUBLED EXPRESSION.
WATCHING HER STAYING SILENT LIKE THAT...
Why do I think it's cute?...
THIS WOMAN, WHO IS SO MUCH LIKE A QUEEN...
...HAS STRANGELY BECOME LIKE A *LITTLE PRINCESS*.
How about you get better at it then?
After all, women are born with the privilege to be spoiled and make selfish demands.
It'd be a waste not to take advantage of that.
CHUCKLE
Vtg
What's so funny?!
Sorry, sorry!


...said that I...
...didn't know how to behave like a spoiled child or make childish demands.
He told me how he was sorry that he never taught me.
My father...
Well, I'm teaching you now.
I think you depend on me quite a bit, actually.
I've already seen your tears countless times.
And if this was the past, you probably would have rejected my offer to watch over your lessons.


I NEVER REALIZED...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE BEEN DEPENDING A LOT ON IKENOHATA.
EVEN WHEN WE WERE ALONE IN HIS ROOM UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT, IT NEVER BOTHERED ME.
Let's go...! It's been a while since I've been to a dinner show.
Wait outside while I get changed.
Now go call him and say thanks.
I'll allow you to accept these tickets!
IT'S TRUE.
バタン
SLAM



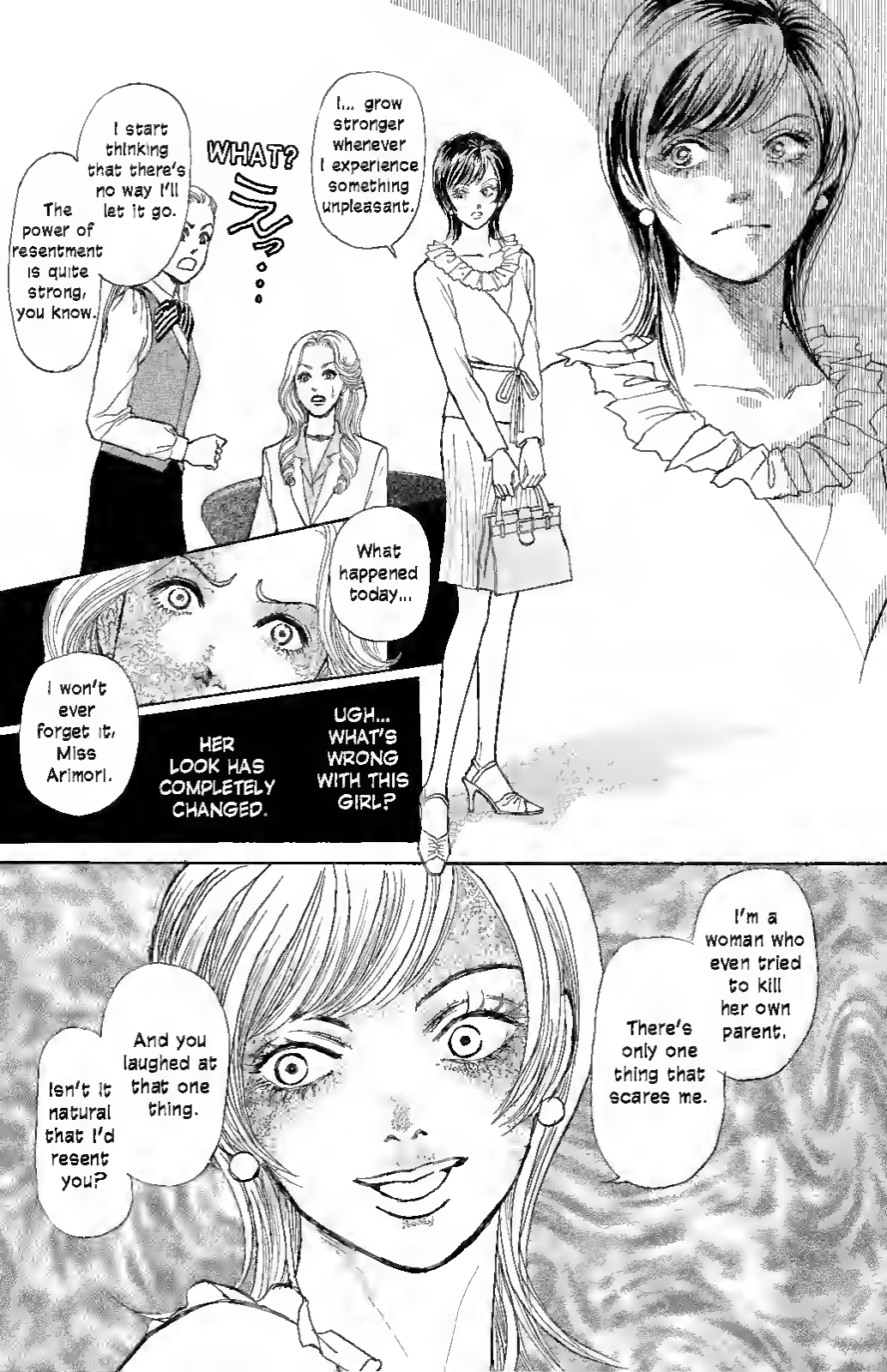


ASIDE FROM FATHER, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO OPEN WITH ANOTHER MAN. I WONDER WHY...

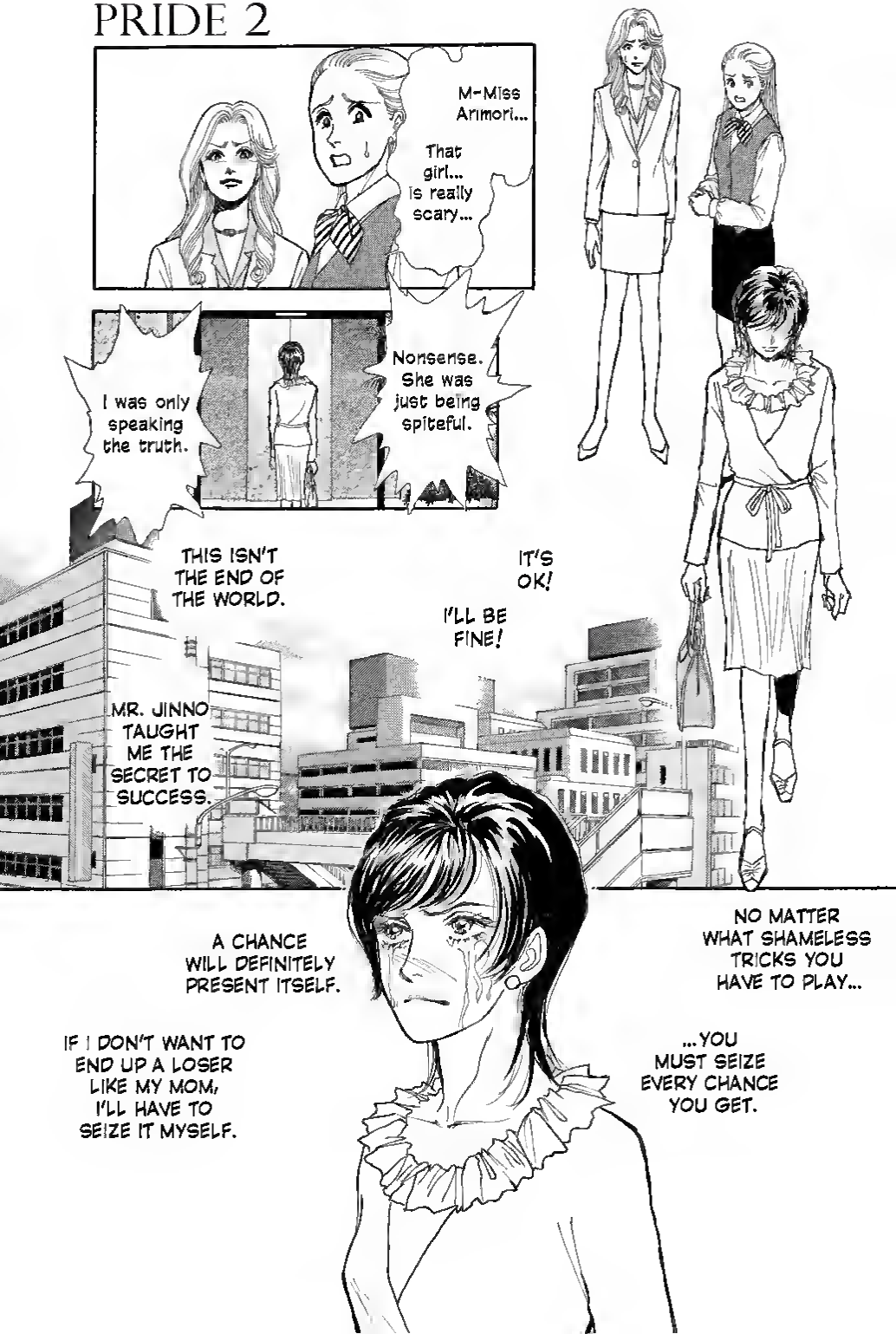
A Miss Moe Midorikawa is waiting in the lobby.
She doesn't appear to have an appointment.
Miss Moe, you've been left under my care...
...so I'll listen to anything you have to say.
What is the matter?
Didn't I tell you to contact *me* if you needed anything?
Please understand.
It's my job to listen to what you have to say.
Don't worry. I'll be sure to relay your message to Mr. Jimno.
There's something that I... ...want to discuss with Mr. Jimno.

Well...
I-I've been saving money for my tuition by working part-time at a bar and for a housecleaning service.
The first semester's tuition was $15,000. They told me the second semester would be slightly cheaper, but...
...it's been hard!
Even with the $2,500 I save every month.
I have to find an apartment.
And I got a part-time job in Ginza...
...but I was told not to wear cheap clothing!
What am I supposed to do about clothes and shoes?!
There's no one else I can talk to about this!
Please! Let me see Mr. Jinno!
I know, but there's no one else I can ask!
The vice president is not your relative.
He's not even your sponsor.
To ask him to fund your tuition, apartment, and clothes is...
Even a lover wouldn't be so shameless as to demand that much.
SOB
SOB
IRRITATED
I'm sorry, but...
...I don't see how you could possibly ask for so much.

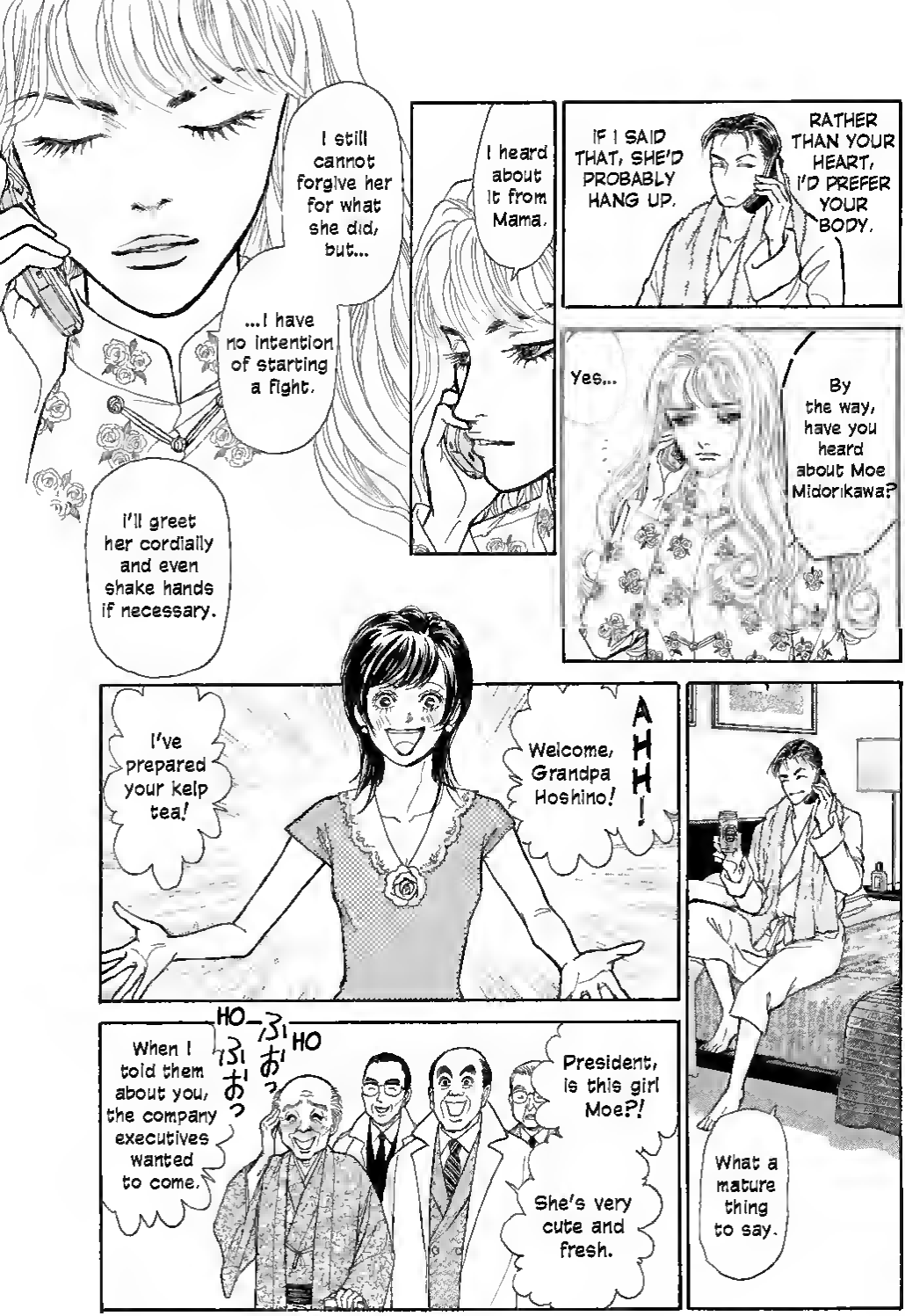
You must realize *that* much.
He just felt a little sorry for you because you were so miserable and helpless.
See? Your relationship with the vice president doesn't go that deep.
Do you even know his cell phone number, Miss Moe?
SOB
...I wouldn't have come here. if I did...
This girl *likes* the vice president.
Isn't that ridiculous?
Just looking at her irritates me.
I'm saying what needs to be said.
E-Excuse me, Miss Arimori.
Isn't that a bit too much?
Don't worry.
I'm fine.
Um... The vice president is currently in Osaka, so...
That's...
That's an awful thing to say!

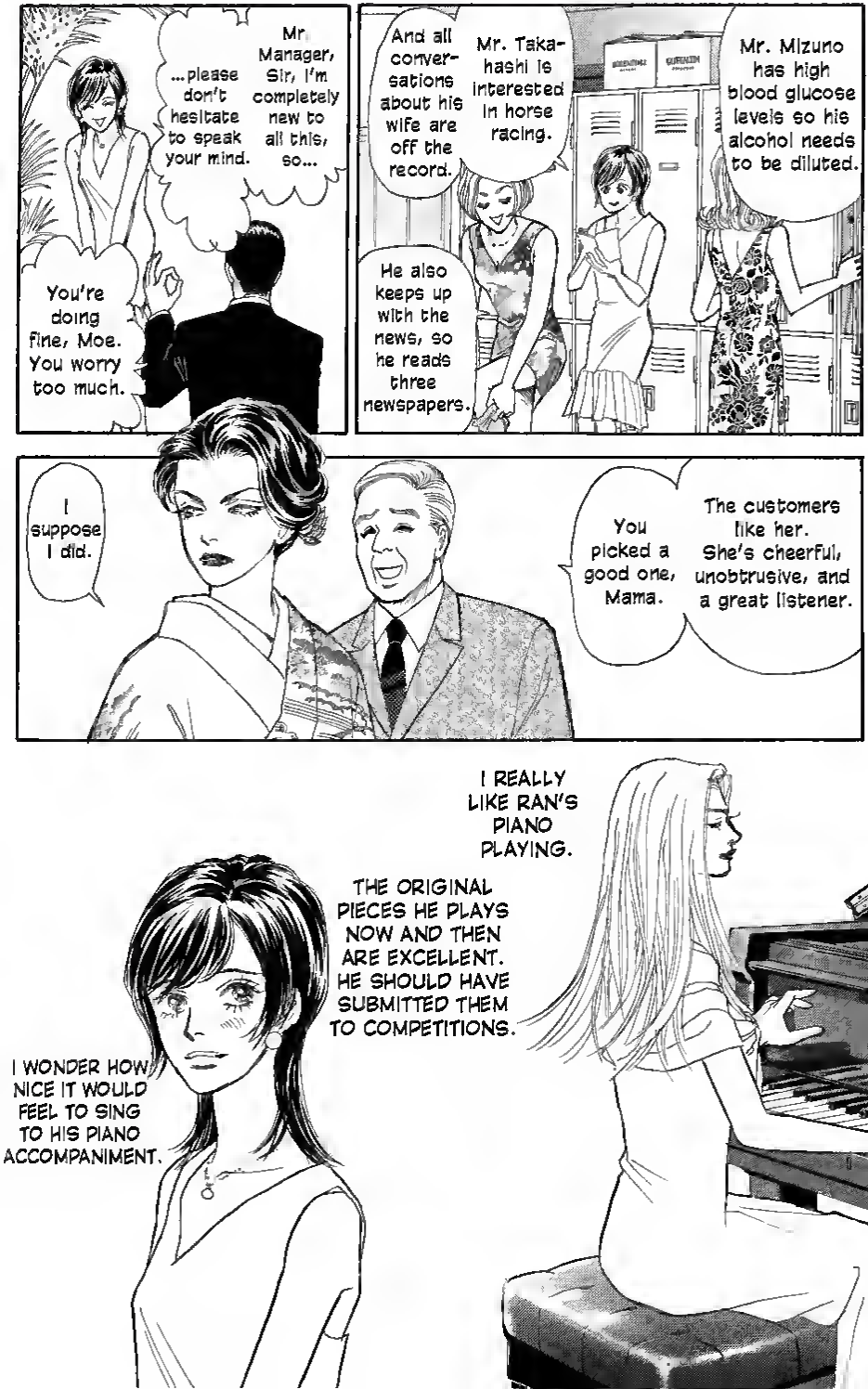

I... grow stronger whenever I experience something unpleasant.
WHAT?
うそ...
I start thinking that there's no way I'll let it go.
The power of resentment is quite strong, you know.
What happened today...
I won't ever forget it, Miss Arimori.
HER LOOK HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED.
UGH... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GIRL?
I'm a woman who even tried to kill her own parent.
There's only one thing that scares me.
And you laughed at that one thing.
Isn't it natural that I'd resent you?

PRIDE 2


M-Miss Arimori...
That girl... is really scary...
Nonsense. She was just being spiteful.
I was only speaking the truth.
THIS ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S OK!
I'LL BE FINE!
MR. JINNO TAUGHT ME THE SECRET TO SUCCESS.
A CHANCE WILL DEFINITELY PRESENT ITSELF.
NO MATTER WHAT SHAMELESS TRICKS YOU HAVE TO PLAY...
...YOU MUST SEIZE EVERY CHANCE YOU GET.
IF I DON'T WANT TO END UP A LOSER LIKE MY MOM, I'LL HAVE TO SEIZE IT MYSELF.

Hello?
This is Shio Asami. Is this a good time to call?
Yes, of course.
This is the first time you've called.
Is it to thank me for the tickets?
Yes. Thank you very much for them.
I went with Ikenohata today.
It served as a great reference on how to sing and pose.
Chansons are different from arias. I was so touched that I even sang on the way home.
I'll be performing at the club starting next Monday. Please stop by if you have time.
I truly am very thankful to you, Mr. Jinno.
I'll be sure to sing with all my heart.
It seems that my plan to show you how much I can be of help to you is succeeding.


I still cannot forgive her for what she did, but...
...I have no intention of starting a fight.
I'll greet her cordially and even shake hands if necessary.
I heard about it from Mama.
IF I SAID THAT, SHE'D PROBABLY HANG UP.
RATHER THAN YOUR HEART, I'D PREFER YOUR BODY.
Yes...
By the way, have you heard about Moe Midorikawa?
I've prepared your kelp tea!
Welcome, Grandpa Hoshino!
AHH!
When I told them about you, the company executives wanted to come.
HO
ふぉっ
HO
President, is this girl Moe?!
She's very cute and fresh.
What a mature thing to say.


Mr. Manager, Sir, I'm completely new to all this, so...
...please don't hesitate to speak your mind.
You're doing fine, Moe. You worry too much.
Mr. Mizuno has high blood glucose levels so his alcohol needs to be diluted.
Mr. Takahashi is interested in horse racing.
And all conversations about his wife are off the record.
He also keeps up with the news, so he reads three newspapers.
The customers like her. She's cheerful, unobtrusive, and a great listener.
You picked a good one, Mama.
I suppose I did.
I REALLY LIKE RAN'S PIANO PLAYING.
THE ORIGINAL PIECES HE PLAYS NOW AND THEN ARE EXCELLENT. HE SHOULD HAVE SUBMITTED THEM TO COMPETITIONS.
I WONDER HOW NICE IT WOULD FEEL TO SING TO HIS PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT.

CLAP
ﾋﾟﾛﾋﾟﾛ
ﾋﾟﾛﾋﾟﾛ
CLAP

IT MAKES ME WONDER IF SHE HAS AN EVIL TWIN SISTER.

SHE APPEARS TO BE A GOOD, HARD-WORKING GIRL.

ﾋﾛｸﾝ
FLINCH

Welcome!

Me too! Me too! ♡

Are you aiming for Mr. Jinno, Moe?

Mr. Jinno comes around two to three times a month.

Good night!

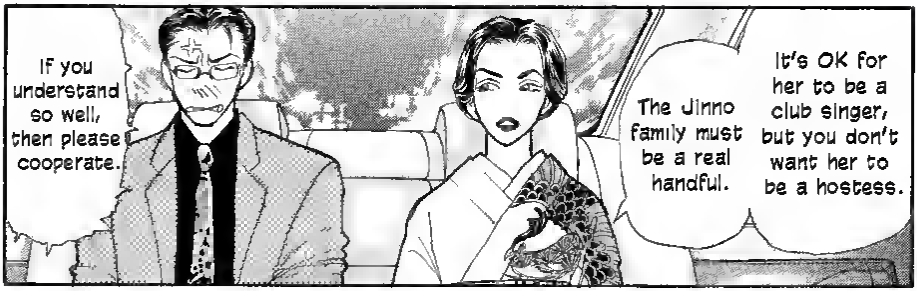
Oh, my. You sure hit the jackpot then. 95% of our customers are that type.

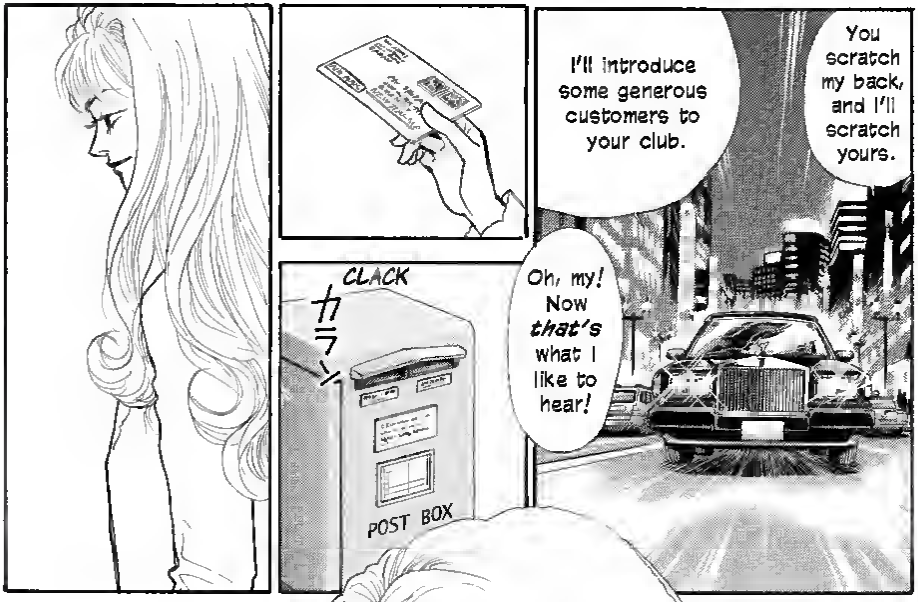
There was never anyone like that around me.

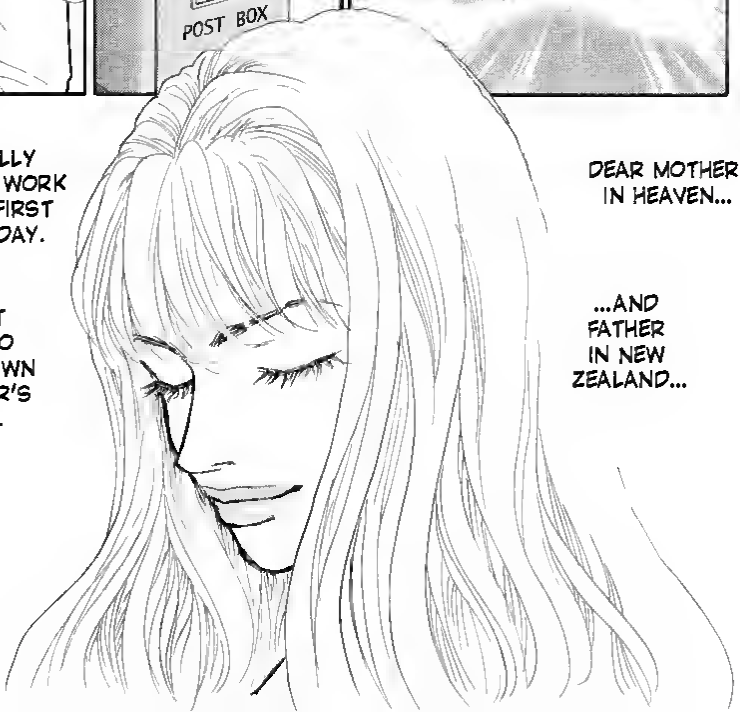
I'm not ***aiming for him***. I just look up to sharp men who always wear suits.

I wonder if that has something to do with why you called me out here today.
It's Shio's debut at *Prima Donna*.
And, today is a special day.
You're reading too much into this.
We've known each other for a long time.
But, this is only the third time that we've gone out together.
Is that so?
You're planning to ask me not to make Shio *entertain* the guests, correct?
Shall I make a guess?
After all, she is the daughter of your idol, Sawako Kihara.
From the beginning, the way you looked at her was different.
Shio's your ideal marriage partner, isn't she?
See? I guessed right!
ほほほほ
HO HO HO HO

PRIDE 2

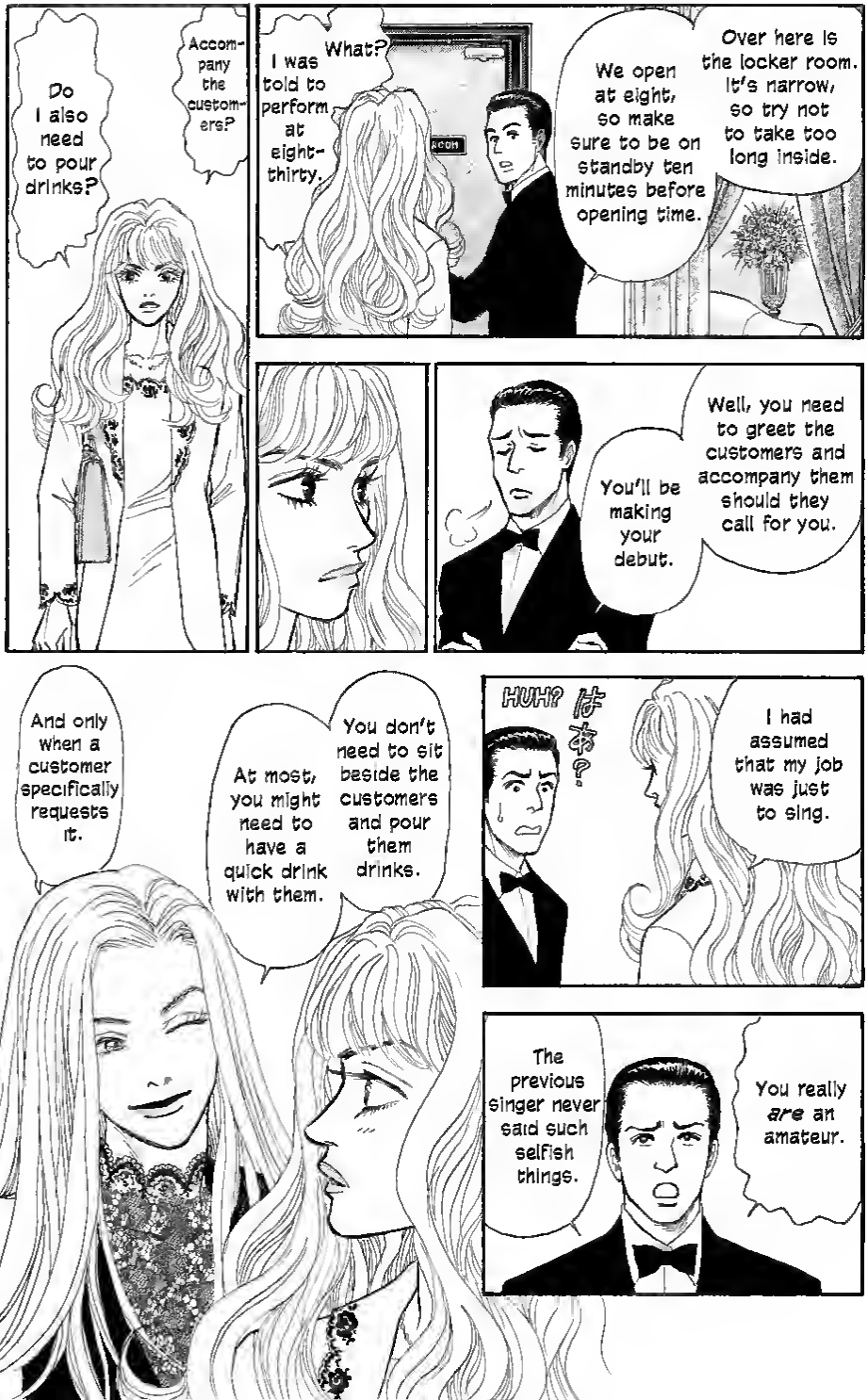

If you understand so well, then please cooperate.
The Jinno family must be a real handful.
It's OK for her to be a club singer, but you don't want her to be a hostess.


CLACK
カラン
POST BOX
I'll introduce some generous customers to your club.
You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.
Oh, my! Now *that's* what I like to hear!


I'M FINALLY GOING TO WORK FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
TODAY IS THE DAY THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO STAND ON MY OWN WITHOUT FATHER'S PROTECTION.
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
...AND FATHER IN NEW ZEALAND...

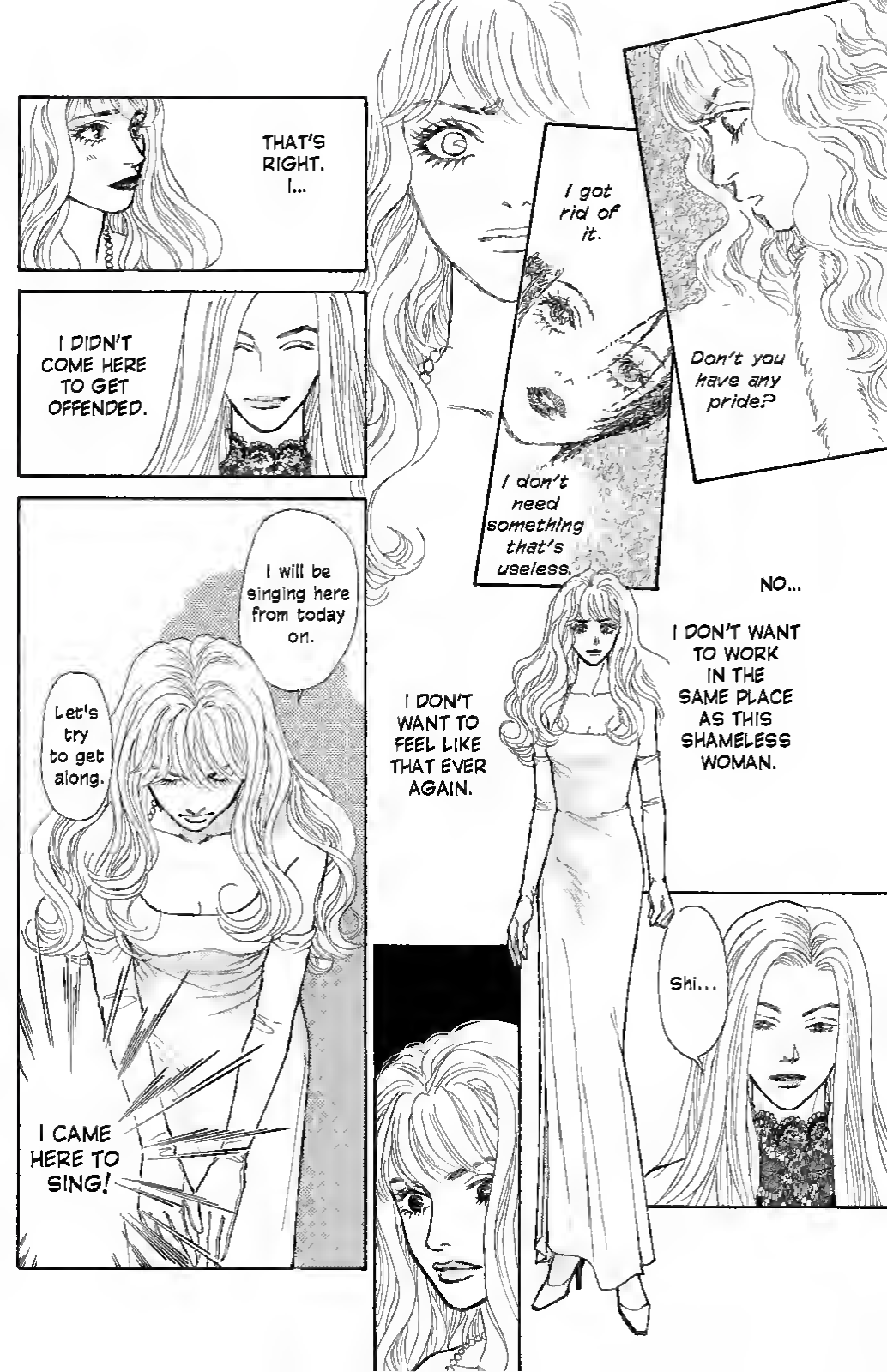
I HAD GIVEN UP ON MY DREAMS OF STUDYING ABROAD IN ITALY AND BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL.
BUT THIS CLUB TAUGHT ME THE JOY OF BEING ABLE TO SING.
STARTING TODAY, I WILL BE WORKING AT THIS CLUB.
PRIMA DONNA
FATHER...
STARTING FROM TODAY, MY JOB WILL BE TO SING!
Hello, everyone!
I'm Shio Asami, the one who will be singing here starting from today. Pleased to meet you!
Hello.
Ah, yes.
Hello!
Hi.

PRIDE 2


Do I also need to pour drinks?
Accompany the customers?
I was told to perform at eight-thirty.
What?
We open at eight, so make sure to be on standby ten minutes before opening time.
Over here is the locker room. It's narrow, so try not to take too long inside.
You'll be making your debut.
Well, you need to greet the customers and accompany them should they call for you.
HUH? はぁ?
I had assumed that my job was just to sing.
You don't need to sit beside the customers and pour them drinks.
At most, you might need to have a quick drink with them.
And only when a customer specifically requests it.
The previous singer never said such selfish things.
You really *are* an amateur.

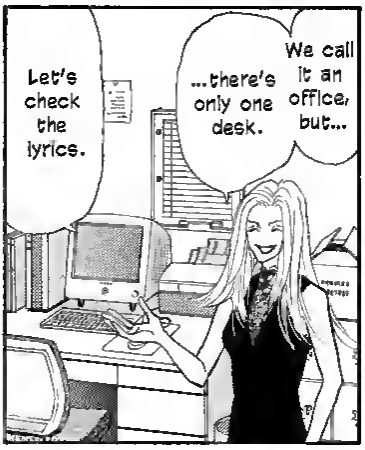
The owner's starting his old stories about Ginza again.
Just like the old Ginza girls.
The type of woman most suited for Ginza.
Very nice. She's gorgeous and refined.
YES
YES
That girl is really pretty.
We'll have the most sought after flower in Ginza!
What? That's such a waste!
Yes... If it's Mama's policy, then...
Hello ?
Yes, I'm opening the club now.
Hello everyone!
Well, well. I am the first one here!
Do you want me to wait in the office until show-time?
Mr. Funaki is here.

Amazing... Moe's accompanying him again today!
スーパーヘルプだわ
A SUPER HELP!
She's President Hoshino's favorite.
And she's able to catch good customers without using her body.
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT!
A MEMORY THAT'S ETCHED IN MY MIND.
WHEN I SEE HER FACE, I REMEMBER IT AS CLEARLY AS IF IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
A HORRIBLE MEMORY THAT MADE ME CRY THE MOST WRETCHED TEARS.

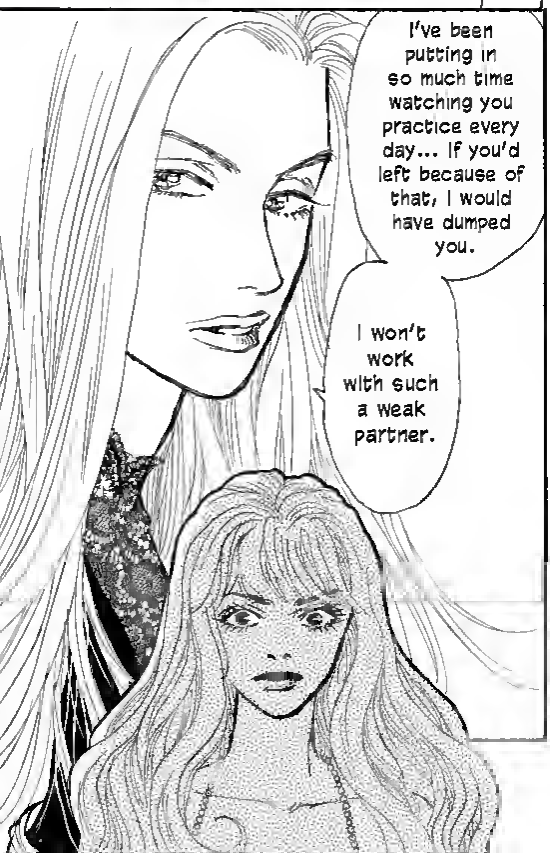

THAT'S RIGHT. I...
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO GET OFFENDED.
I will be singing here from today on.
Let's try to get along.
I CAME HERE TO SING!
I got rid of it.
I don't need something that's useless.
Don't you have any pride?
NO...
I DON'T WANT TO WORK IN THE SAME PLACE AS THIS SHAMELESS WOMAN.
I DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN.
Shi...

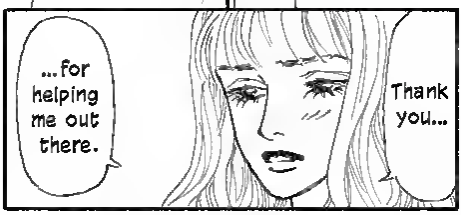
PRIDE 2

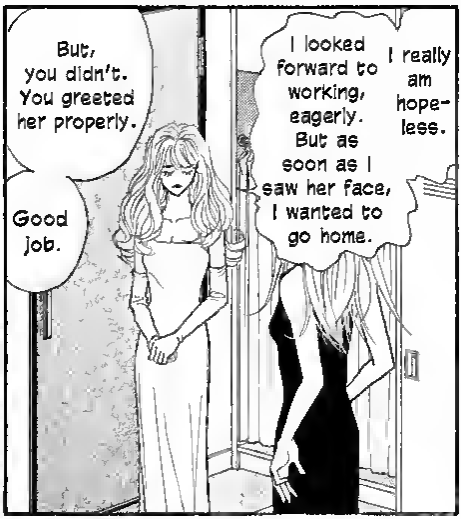
KA-
CHAK
!
OFFICE

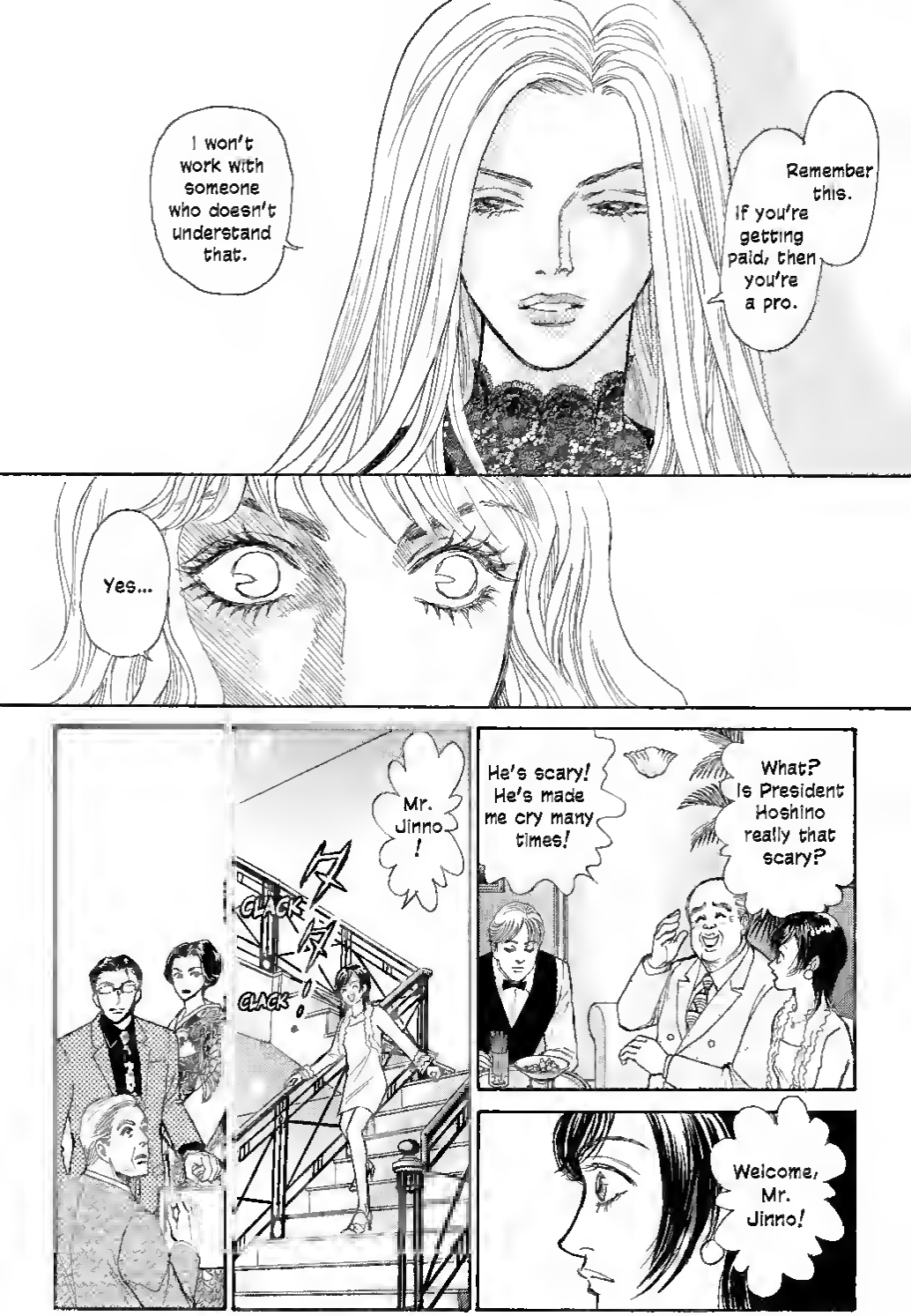

Let's check the lyrics.
...there's only one desk.
We call it an office, but...

Yes, let's...


I've been putting in so much time watching you practice every day... If you'd left because of that, I would have dumped you.
I won't work with such a weak partner.


...for helping me out there.
Thank you...

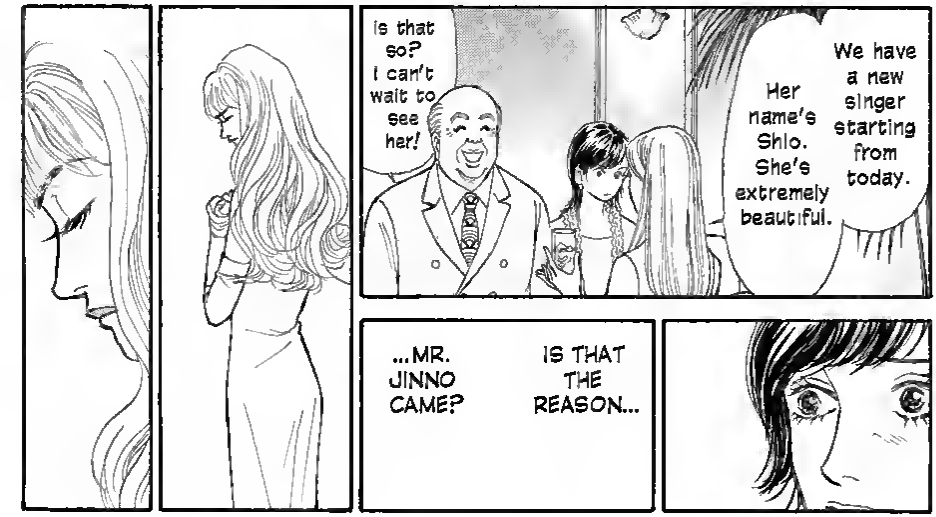

But, you didn't. You greeted her properly.
Good job.
I looked forward to working, eagerly. But as soon as I saw her face, I wanted to go home.
I really am hopeless.


I won't work with someone who doesn't understand that.
Remember this. If you're getting paid, then you're a pro.
Yes...
Mr. Jinno!
CLACK
CLACK
He's scary! He's made me cry many times!
What? Is President Hoshino really that scary?
Welcome, Mr. Jinno!

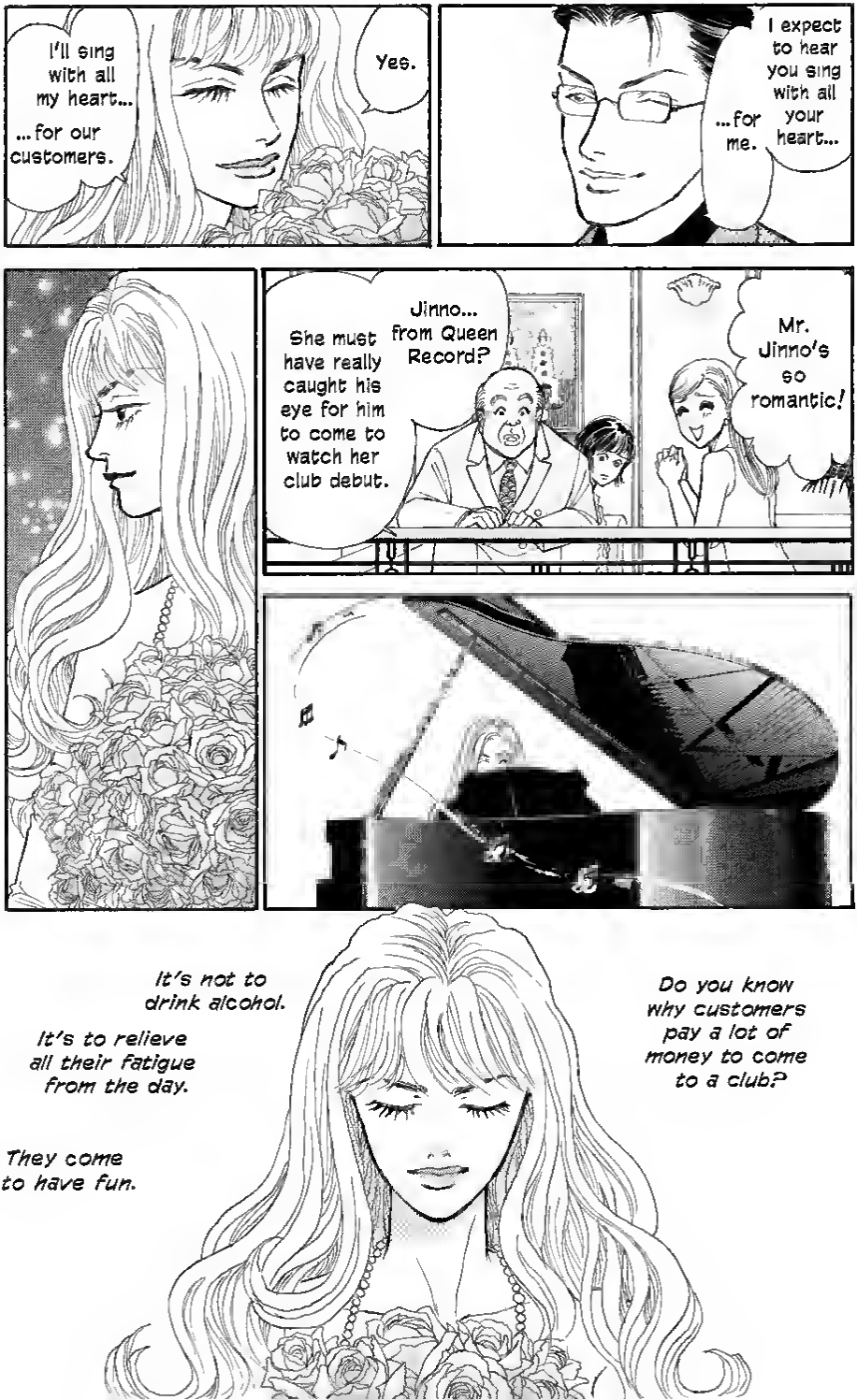
PRIDE 2

It appears you're working hard.
Yes, I heard.
I'm sorry for causing you so much trouble...
Um... I'm working here now.
Up-stairs ...
There's a lot I want to talk to him about.
Mama, is it all right if I join you?
Please come this way, Mr. Jinno.
It's rude to run after another customer as soon as they arrive.
You. Do you plan to embarrass your patron, Mr. Funaki?
B-But... I can only meet him here.
I need to talk...

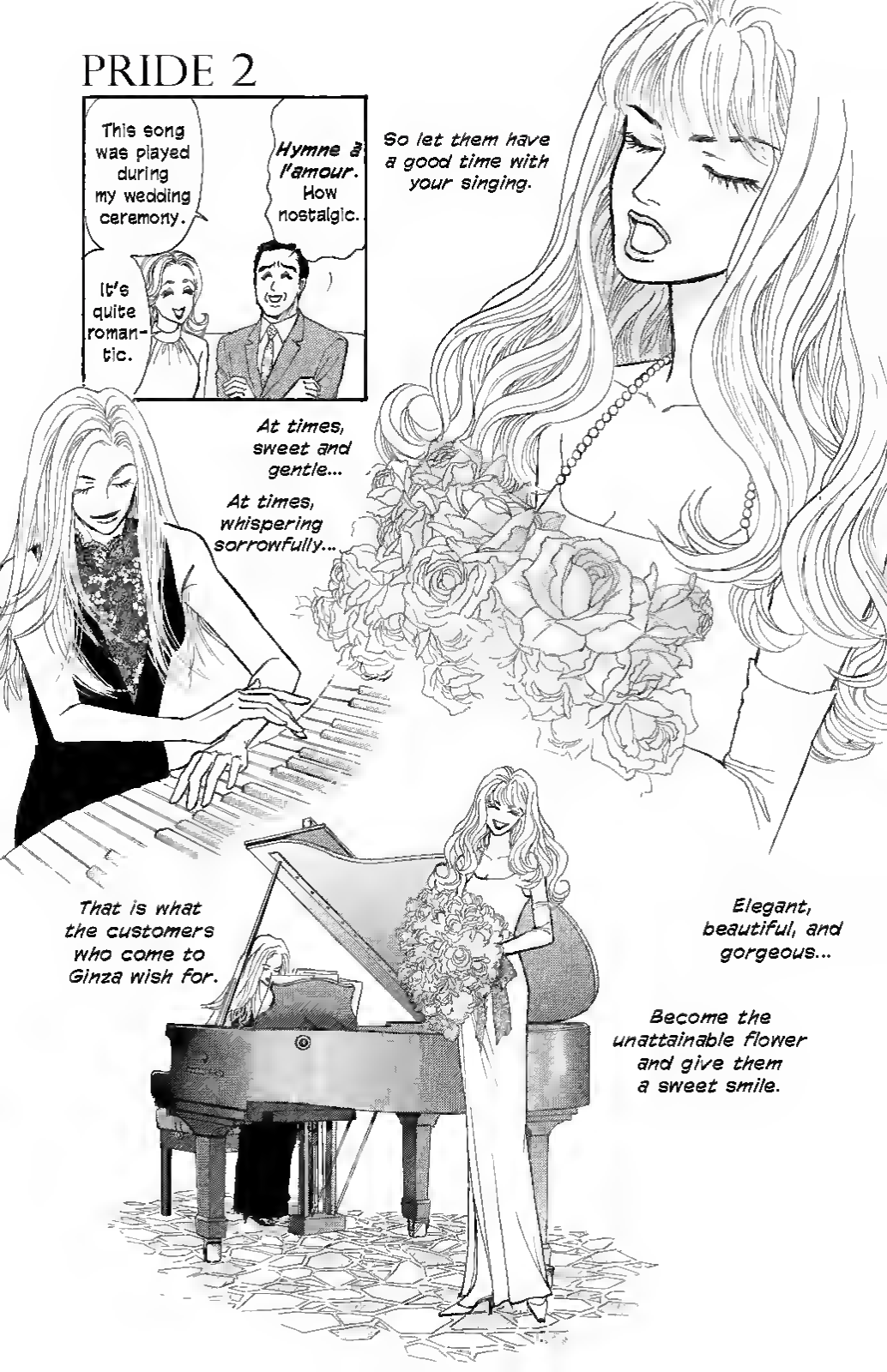
If you want to talk, go to a dive bar.
This is a place where hostesses listen to their customers.
This is not a place where hostesses talk about themselves.
You seem to be misunderstanding something, Moe.
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK

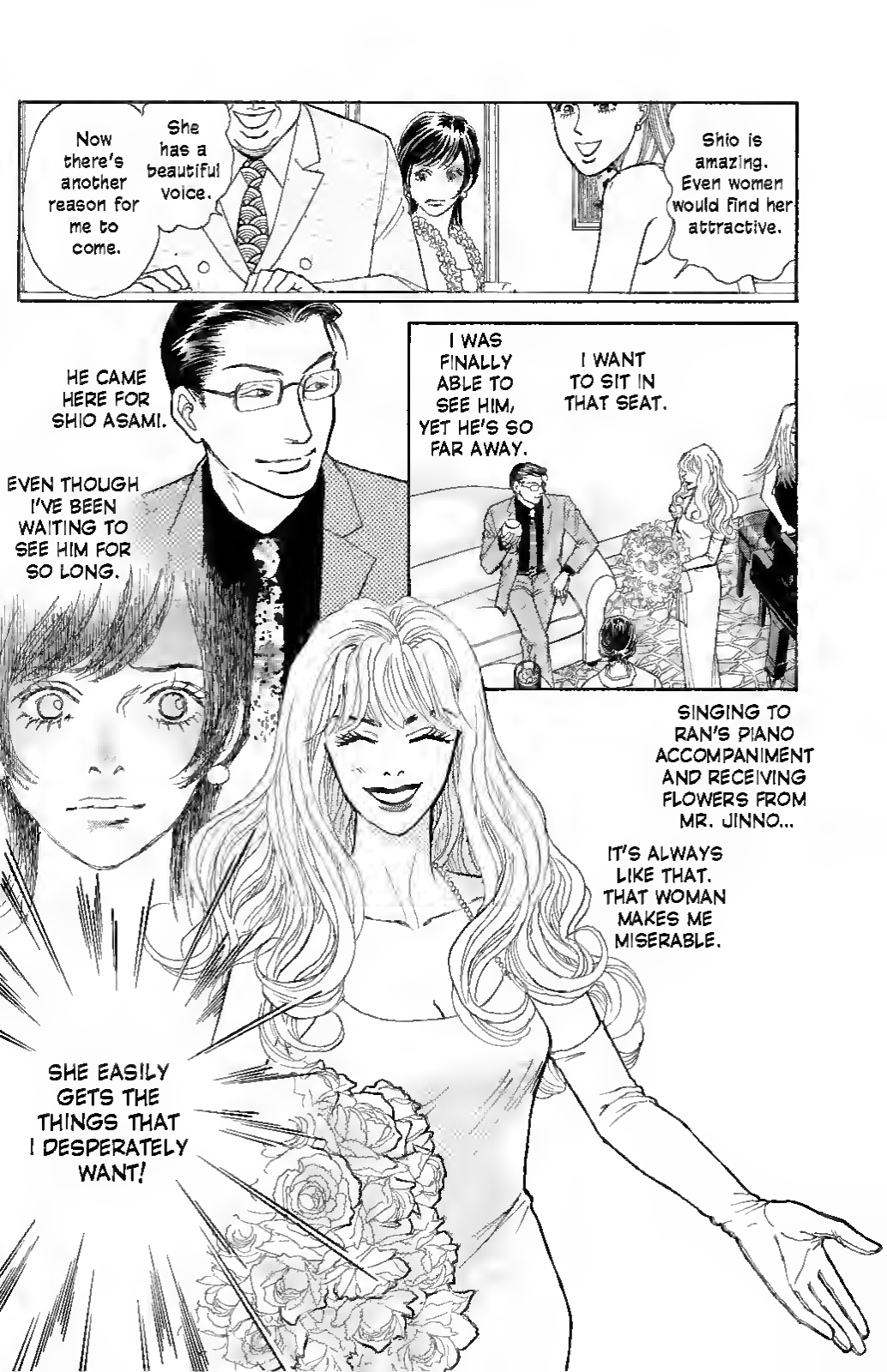

Is that so? I can't wait to see her!
Her name's Shio. She's extremely beautiful.
We have a new singer starting from today.
...MR. JINNO CAME?
IS THAT THE REASON...

What a magnificent entrance.
As befitting of someone who really knows her way around the stage.
A PRINCESS WHO'S THE BEST SINGER IN THE WORLD.
I AM A DIVA.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT'S RIGHT.
STARTING FROM TODAY, MY JOB IS TO SING.
Remember this.
If you're getting paid, then you're a pro.
Congratulations on your once-in-a-lifetime professional debut.
As promised, I came here as soon as I could.


I'll sing with all my heart...
...for our customers.
Yes.
I expect to hear you sing with all your heart...
...for me.
Jinno... from Queen Record?
She must have really caught his eye for him to come to watch her club debut.
Mr. Jinno's so romantic!
It's not to drink alcohol.
It's to relieve all their fatigue from the day.
They come to have fun.
Do you know why customers pay a lot of money to come to a club?

PRIDE 2

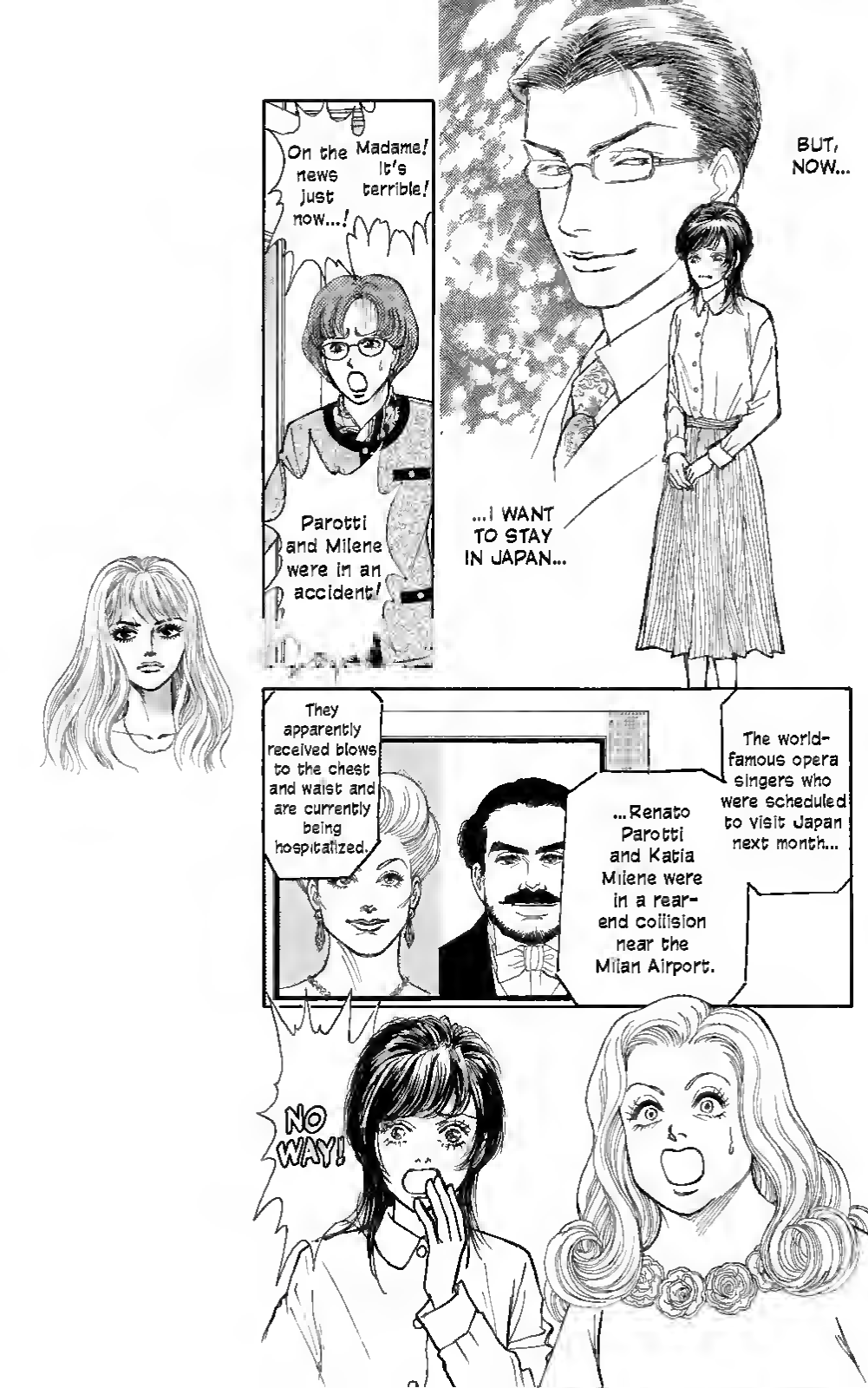

This song was played during my wedding ceremony.
It's quite romantic.
Hymne à l'amour. How nostalgic.
So let them have a good time with your singing.
At times, sweet and gentle...
At times, whispering sorrowfully...
That is what the customers who come to Ginza wish for.
Elegant, beautiful, and gorgeous...
Become the unattainable flower and give them a sweet smile.


Now there's another reason for me to come.
She has a beautiful voice.
Shio is amazing. Even women would find her attractive.
HE CAME HERE FOR SHIO ASAMI.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE HIM FOR SO LONG.
I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO SEE HIM, YET HE'S SO FAR AWAY.
I WANT TO SIT IN THAT SEAT.
SINGING TO RAN'S PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT AND RECEIVING FLOWERS FROM MR. JINNO...
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT. THAT WOMAN MAKES ME MISERABLE.
SHE EASILY GETS THE THINGS THAT I DESPERATELY WANT!

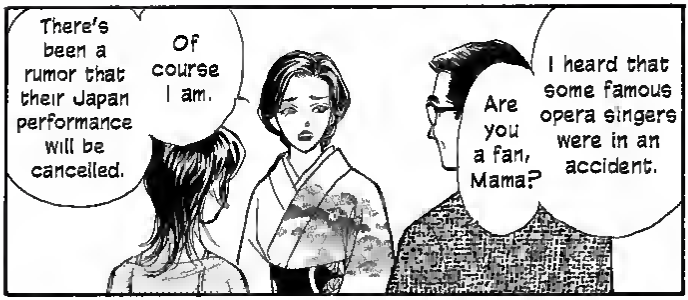
松島 春子
HARUKO MATSUSHIMA
Don't sing like you are in distress! Sing as if you're looking down from above.
That part, more tenuto!
Add resonance to your voice from the top of your head!
Legato.
Staccato.
BAM
FLINCH
Open up your throat more.
You're just singing with your mouth, not your body.
Enunciate properly until the end.
Otherwise, your words won't be clear.

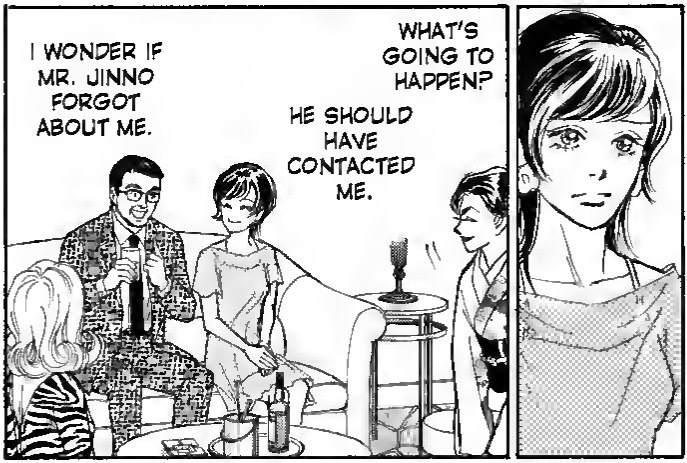
NOTES ***Staccato*** Short, clear-cut singing of notes ***Tenuto*** Holding the note to its full extent. ***Legato*** Extending the note softly.

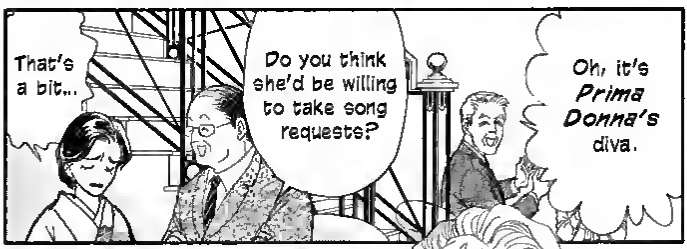
This is why Tachikawa Music College is no good.
They don't properly teach the basics there.
You're not projecting your voice like you did during the competition.
Have you been practicing consistently?
I'm sorry... I've been having problems, so...
If you want to perform in the August production of La bohème, you must raise your level.
It's not a school production.
You want to study in Italy and become a professional singer, don't you?
I-if possible...
It's hard to survive in this world.
There are many who return frustrated after studying abroad.
If you do it just for prestige, it's meaningless.
STUDYING ABROAD IN ITALY...
I YEARNED SO MUCH FOR IT...
...AND WANTED TO GO RIGHT AWAY.

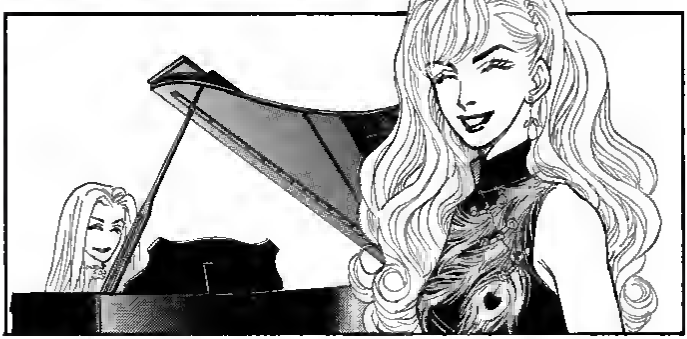

BUT, NOW...
...I WANT TO STAY IN JAPAN...
Madame! It's terrible!
On the news just now...!
Parotti and Milene were in an accident!
The world-famous opera singers who were scheduled to visit Japan next month...
...Renato Parotti and Katia Milene were in a rear-end collision near the Milan Airport.
They apparently received blows to the chest and waist and are currently being hospitalized.
NO WAY!

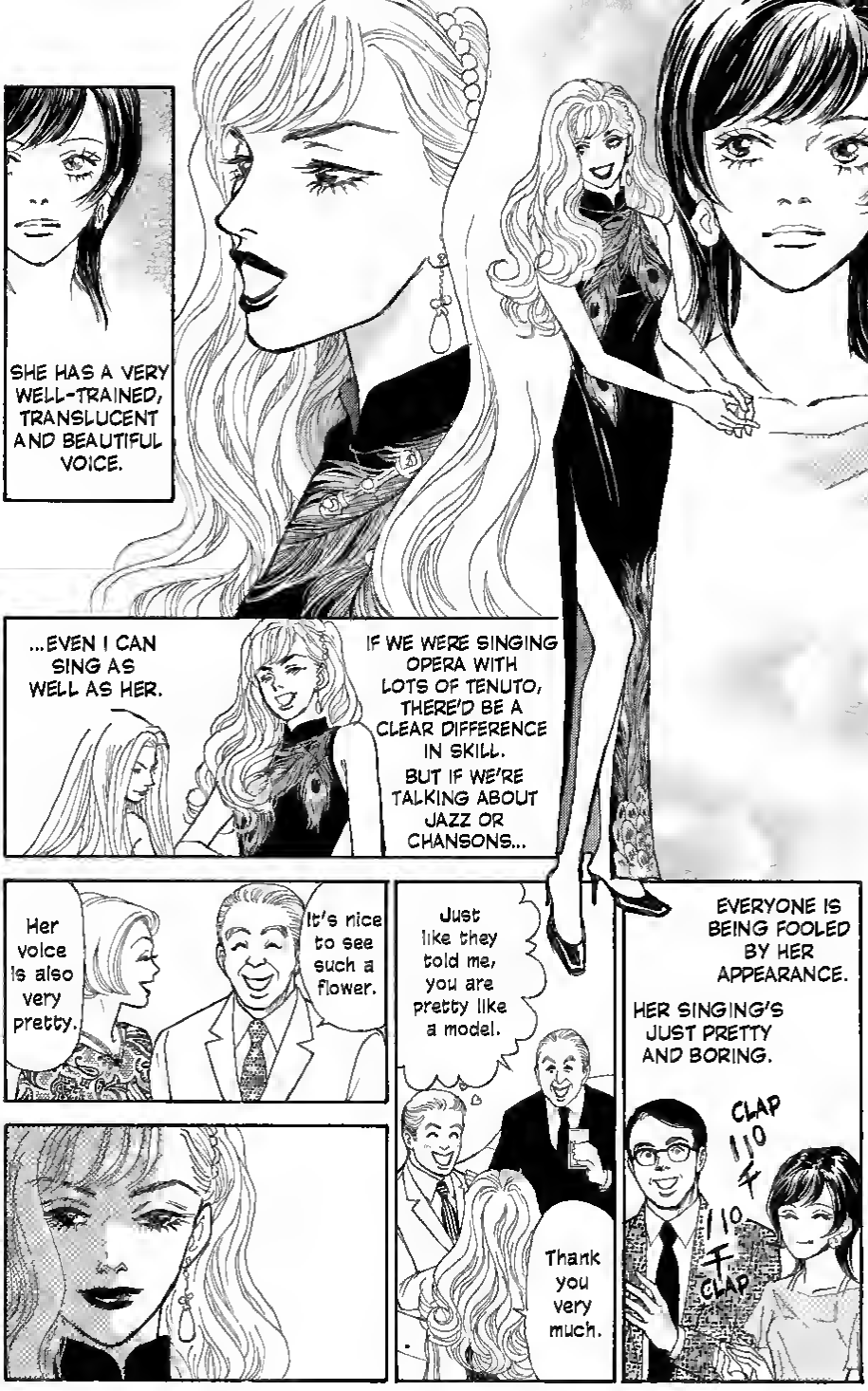
I finally got through!
Their lives aren't in danger, but they've sustained severe bruising throughout their bodies.
Detailed test results are not out yet, but the bruises around Parotti's chest are quite severe.
It's certain that they will be hospitalized for a while.
How about using stand-ins?
One is fine, but I doubt the fans will accept two stand-ins.
I guess complete recovery in three months is impossible.
What a mess.
Hey...
Did you hear about the accident?
Yes. I saw it on the afternoon news.
I was looking forward to seeing them.
With this, the performance will definitely be cancelled.
I'm more worried about their injuries.


There's been a rumor that their Japan performance will be cancelled.
Of course I am.
Are you a fan, Mama?
I heard that some famous opera singers were in an accident.


I WONDER IF MR. JINNO FORGOT ABOUT ME.
HE SHOULD HAVE CONTACTED ME.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

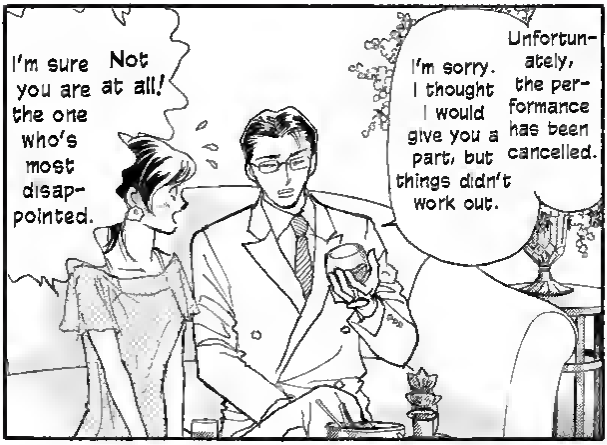

That's a bit...
Do you think she'd be willing to take song requests?
Oh, it's Prima Donna's diva.




SHE HAS A VERY WELL-TRAINED, TRANSLUCENT AND BEAUTIFUL VOICE.
...EVEN I CAN SING AS WELL AS HER.
IF WE WERE SINGING OPERA WITH LOTS OF TENUTO, THERE'D BE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE IN SKILL.
BUT IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT JAZZ OR CHANSONS...
Her voice is also very pretty.
It's nice to see such a flower.
Just like they told me, you are pretty like a model.
Thank you very much.
EVERYONE IS BEING FOOLED BY HER APPEARANCE.
HER SINGING'S JUST PRETTY AND BORING.
CLAP
CLAP

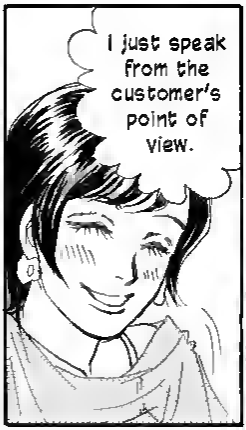
PRIDE 2

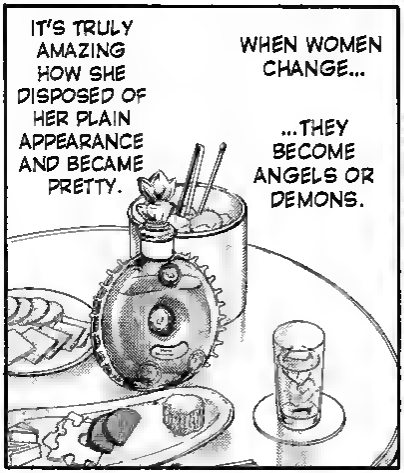
I'VE ALREADY BEEN COMING HERE FOR TEN DAYS...
...BUT NO ONE HAS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MY SINGING ABILITY.
IT'S NICE TO SEE SUCH A FLOWER.
YOU HAVE A PRETTY VOICE.
I LIKE THAT SONG.
KA CHAK
It's been a while.
Y-Yes! Welcome!
Please make yourself comfortable.
Excuse me for a moment.
You're really popular, aren't you Moe?


I'm sure you are the one who's most disappointed.
Not at all!
I'm sorry. I thought I would give you a part, but things didn't work out.
Unfortunately, the performance has been cancelled.

Have you heard about Parotti and Milene?

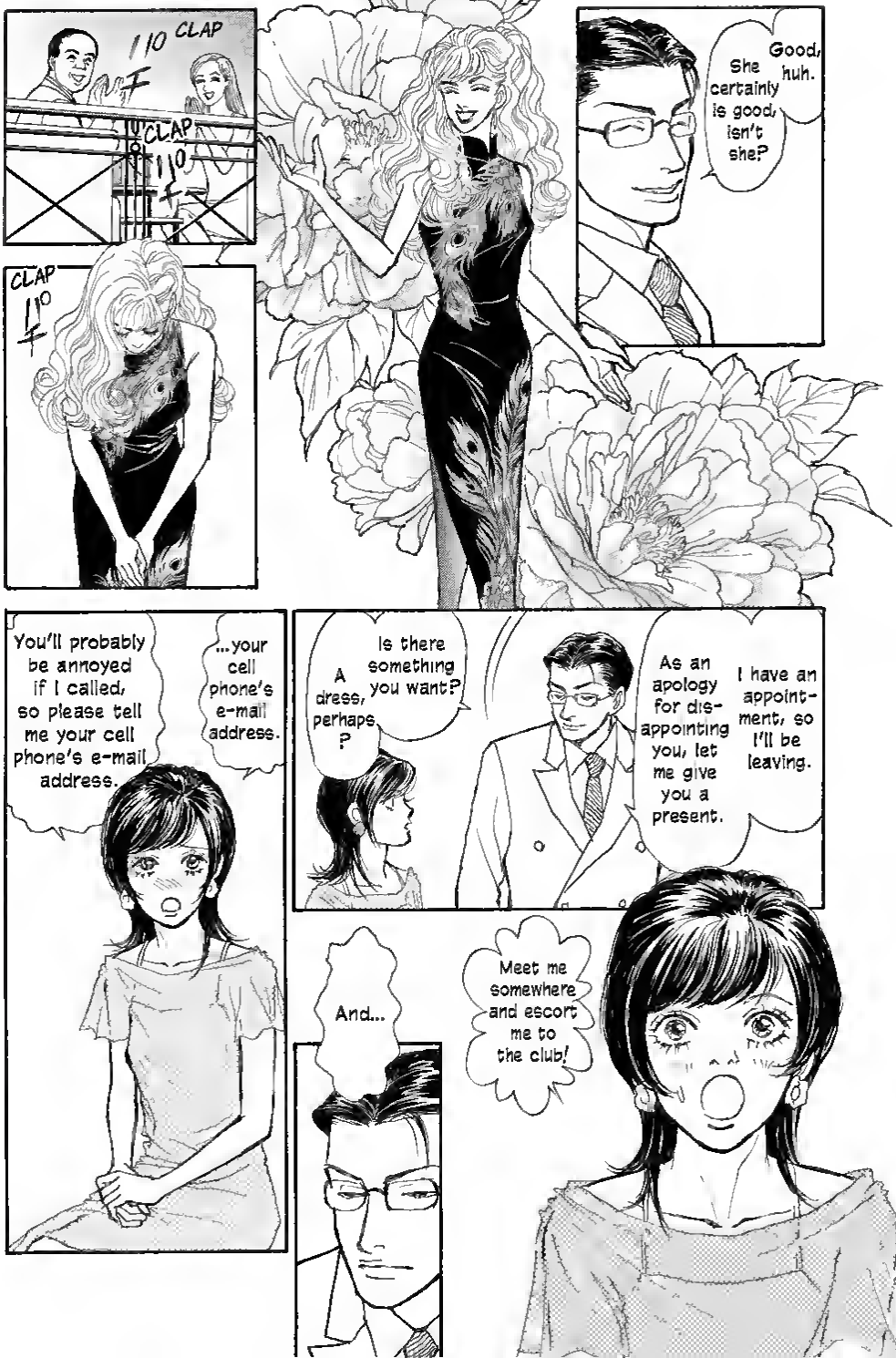
Yes.


I just speak from the customer's point of view.

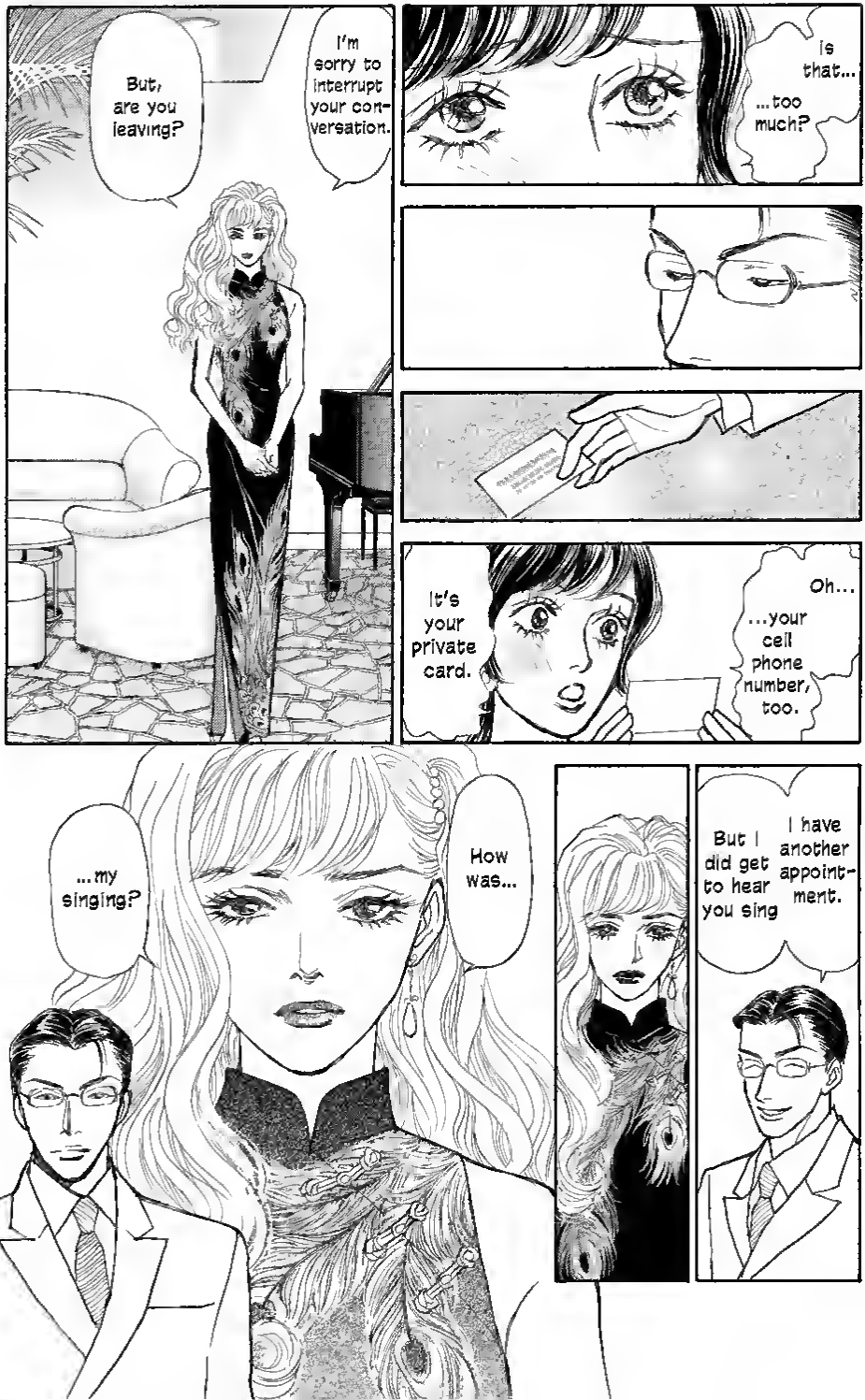

IT'S TRULY AMAZING HOW SHE DISPOSED OF HER PLAIN APPEARANCE AND BECAME PRETTY.
WHEN WOMEN CHANGE...
...THEY BECOME ANGELS OR DEMONS.

Now I understand why you're so popular.
The customers who come here are weak to those words.
I've been doing nothing but apologizing since this afternoon.

I'll graduate in a year, so I thought I'd leave then.
I'm also paying off my first semester's tuition.
What?
Didn't you say that you wanted to go right away?
What will you do about studying abroad?
CLAP
110千
CLAP
110千
CLAP
110千
CLAP
110千
It's good.
What do you think about her singing?


CLAP
CLAP
Good, huh.
She certainly is good, isn't she?
CLAP
You'll probably be annoyed if I called, so please tell me your cell phone's e-mail address.
...your cell phone's e-mail address.
A dress, perhaps?
Is there something you want?
As an apology for disappointing you, let me give you a present.
I have an appointment, so I'll be leaving.
Meet me somewhere and escort me to the club!
And...

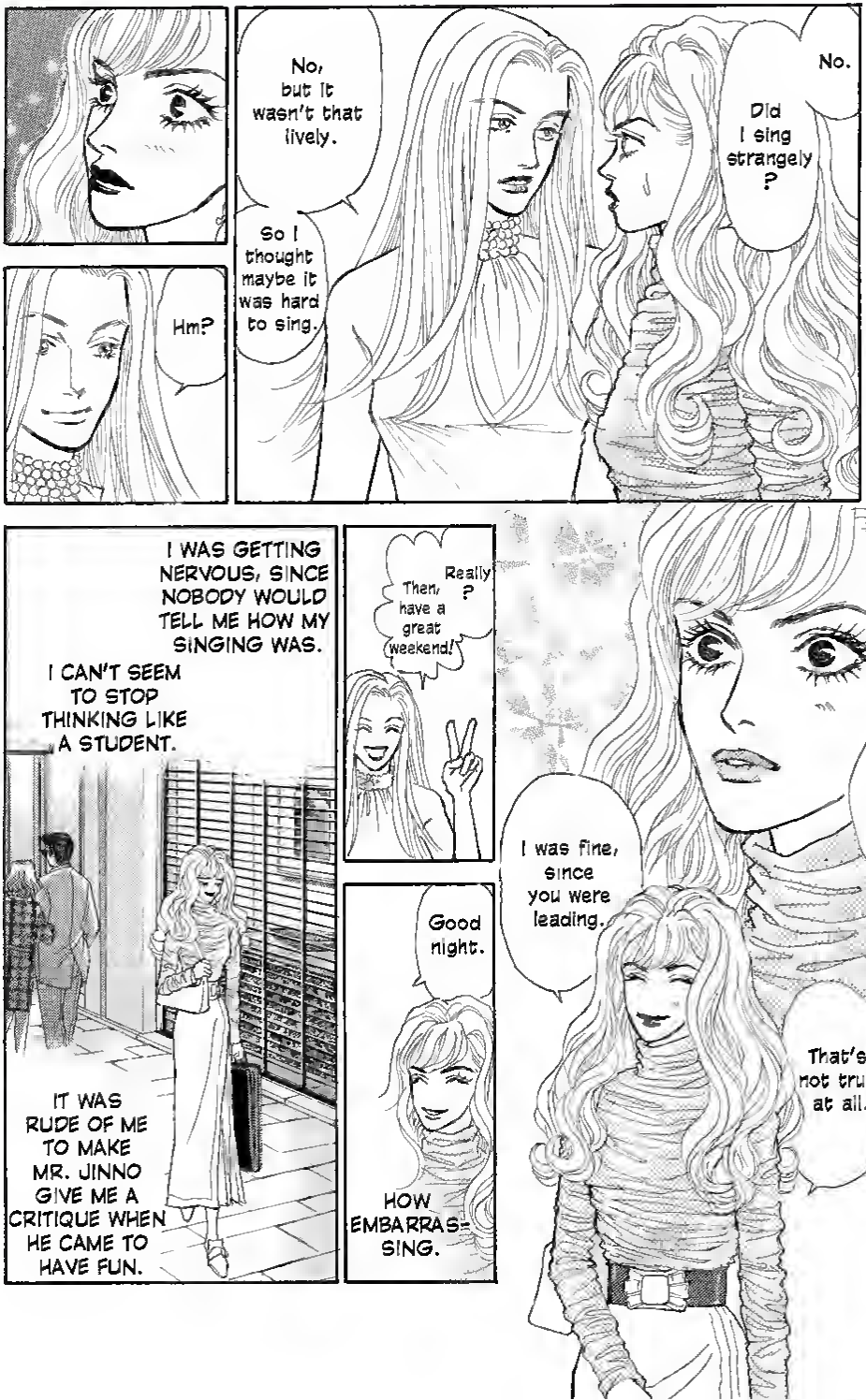
PRIDE 2

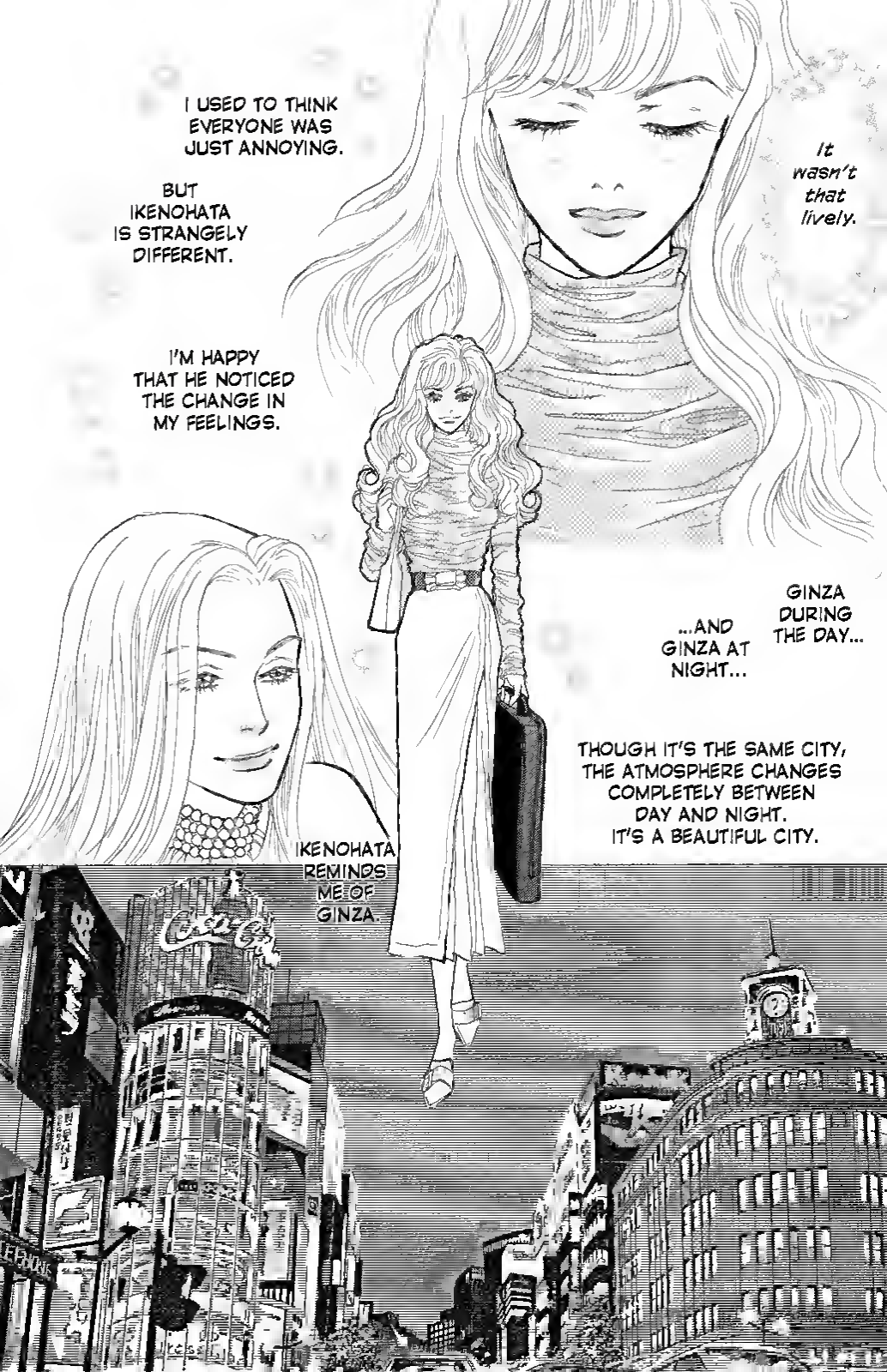

I'm sorry to interrupt your conversation.
But, are you leaving?
Is that...
...too much?
It's your private card.
Oh...
...your cell phone number, too.
How was...
...my singing?
But I did get to hear you sing
I have another appointment.

Didn't you just arrive?
Oh, my. Leaving so soon?
Or is my answer not enough?
It was good.
It must be difficult having to clean things up.
Thank you for today, Mr. Jinno!
Thank you very much.
No.
Will that be a problem?
Mama! Mr. Jinno promised to meet me and escort me to the club!
You look happy, Moe.
Please don't drink too much, OK?!

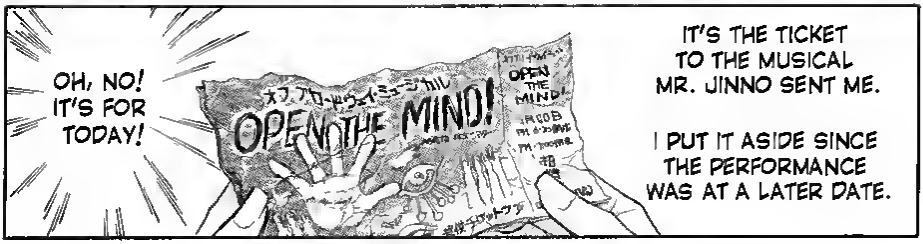
ATOSHI
LUB KIKU
YANAGI B
I'm short $6,000 for moving and school expenses.
So... I'd like to request an advance on my salary.
Really? That makes me happy!
It'll be the first time.. He's never done that before.
It won't, but it's unusual ...
I think I'm being more useful than the older sisters.
I've been getting a lot of customers.
I'm doing my best, right Mama?
That's true.
For now.
Ah, wait a sec!
Good work.
I need to catch the train, so I'll be leaving.
Was it hard to sing today?
There were a lot of new songs, so...

NOTES *Older sisters* Hostesses who have their own customers
Moe is a *help*


No.
Did I sing strangely?
No, but it wasn't that lively.
So I thought maybe it was hard to sing.
Hm?
I was fine, since you were leading.
That's not true at all.
Really?
Then, have a great weekend!
Good night.
HOW EMBARRASSING.
I WAS GETTING NERVOUS, SINCE NOBODY WOULD TELL ME HOW MY SINGING WAS.
I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP THINKING LIKE A STUDENT.
IT WAS RUDE OF ME TO MAKE MR. JINNO GIVE ME A CRITIQUE WHEN HE CAME TO HAVE FUN.

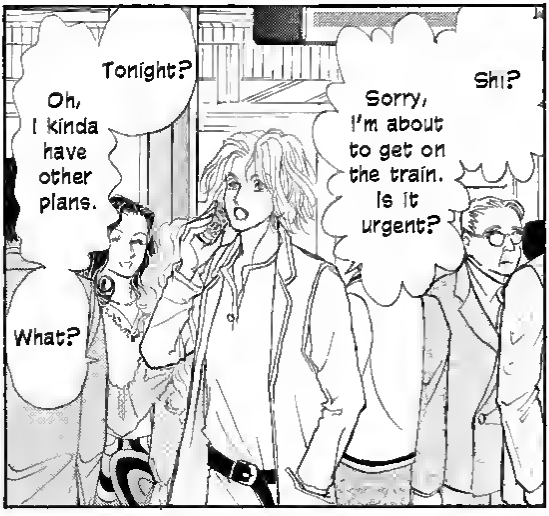

I USED TO THINK EVERYONE WAS JUST ANNOYING.
BUT IKENOHATA IS STRANGELY DIFFERENT.
I'M HAPPY THAT HE NOTICED THE CHANGE IN MY FEELINGS.
It wasn't that lively.
GINZA DURING THE DAY...
...AND GINZA AT NIGHT...
THOUGH IT'S THE SAME CITY, THE ATMOSPHERE CHANGES COMPLETELY BETWEEN DAY AND NIGHT. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CITY.
IKENOHATA REMINDS ME OF GINZA.

I GO TO THE SUPERMARKET, GO TO THE COIN LAUNDRY, AND EVEN THROW OUT THE GARBAGE MYSELF.
IF FATHER SAW ME, HE'D BE SURPRISED.
There's something in the pocket.
House-cleaning. Done.
Laundry. Done.
All that's left is to iron the clothes.
MIKAWAYA
LIQUOR STORE
コインランドリー
COIN LAUNDRY

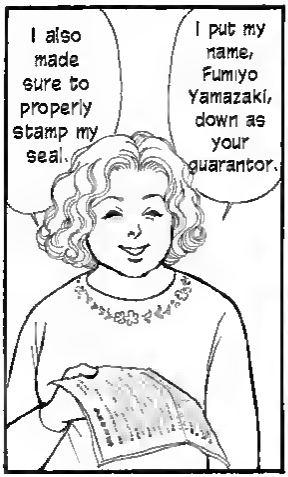

OH, NO! IT'S FOR TODAY!
OPEN THE MIND!
IT'S THE TICKET TO THE MUSICAL MR. JINNO SENT ME.
I PUT IT ASIDE SINCE THE PERFORMANCE WAS AT A LATER DATE.

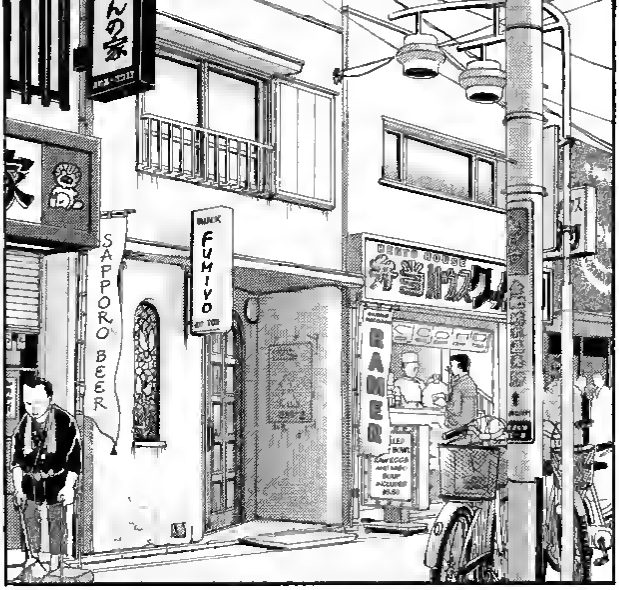
It wasn't anything important.
I just wondered if you were free.
It's fine. Please get on the train.

HE SEEMS TO BE BUSY.

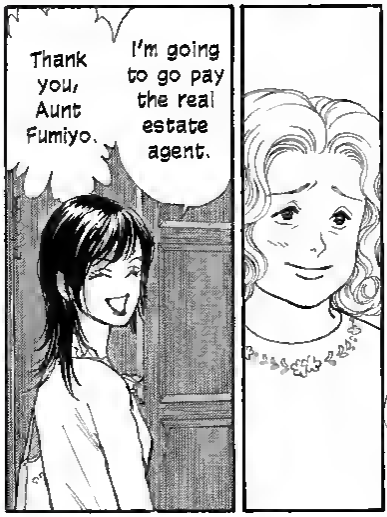

Tonight?
Oh, I kinda have other plans.
What?
Shi?
Sorry, I'm about to get on the train. Is it urgent?

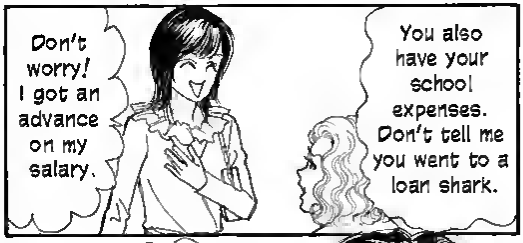
PRIDE 2

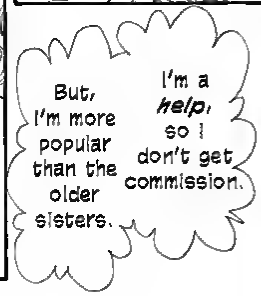

I also made sure to properly stamp my seal.
I put my name, Fumiyo Yamazaki, down as your guarantor.


SAPPORO BEER
FUMIYO
RAMEN

I'm sure the moving expenses must be hard on you. You'll need to buy a bed and kitchen utensils.
Don't worry about it. It's the least I could do.
I'm glad. There wasn't anyone else I could ask to be my guarantor.


Thank you, Aunt Fumiyo.
I'm going to go pay the real estate agent.


Don't worry! I got an advance on my salary.
You also have your school expenses. Don't tell me you went to a loan shark.

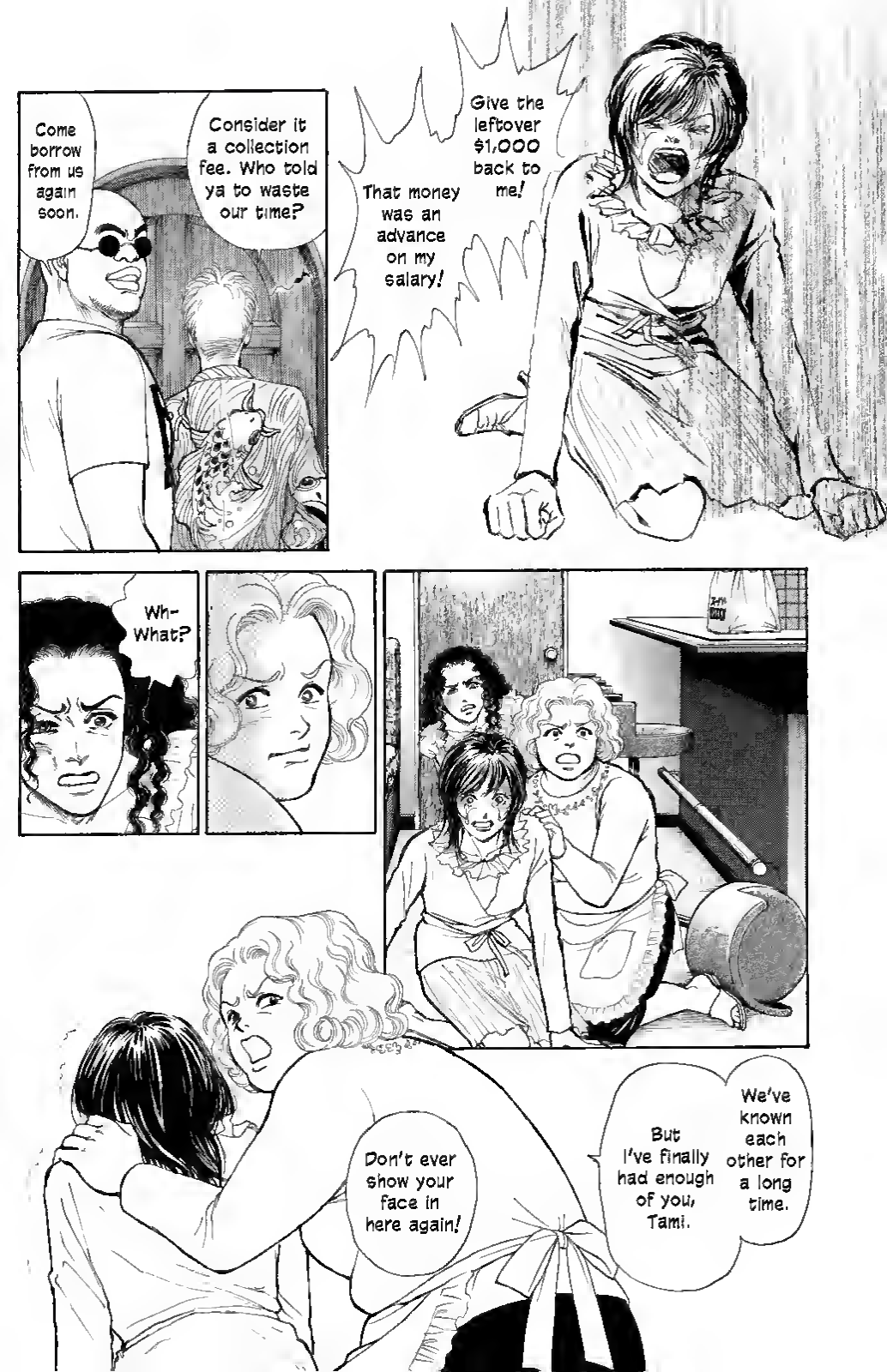

But, I'm more popular than the older sisters.
I'm a *help*, so I don't get commission.

What are you wearing, Tami?!
Wh-What's going on?!
Save me, Fumi!
W-Wait a minute!
Business is slow, so I don't have that kind of money.
I'm begging you! Please lend me $1,000 dollars!
I was sleeping! Then... Then...!
CLENCH
Tami... Your face...
Please? Please?! Just $500!
You've gotta save me!
Then lend me $500!

I don't care!
I'm going to be killed!
You have money, right?!
Moe?
No way.
Looks like you're doing OK.
I'm leaving!
Sorry, Aunt Fumiyo!
SLAM
It's a child's duty to pay their parent's debts.
Let's make the daughter pay the $5,000.
TRUTH
誠
What a cold daughter. Your mom's in trouble, ya know.

TRUTH
We warned ya when ya borrowed the money! We told ya politely to have the money by the repayment date!
We charge a high interest on overdue payments.
$5,000?! I only borrowed $2,000!
If it's you, you could quickly *earn* the $5,000.
She can repay the money with her body.
Your daughter's young and pretty.
My mom's the one who borrowed the money.
N-No...
There's no reason for me to have to repay it.
You've got a cash card, don't cha?
Hand over your bag.
If ya don't wanna, then pay up in cash.

What the fuck are ya talkin' about?!
AIII!
WHAM
1... 2... 3... 4... There's over $5,000!
Whoa! She's carryin' a ton of cash!
Stop it!
Moe!
Give it... back...
Didn't you say that it was just $5,000?!
I'll COUGH IT UP
Moe! Moe! Are you OK?!
I'll take this.
Stupid. Ya shoulda just given us the cash when we asked.

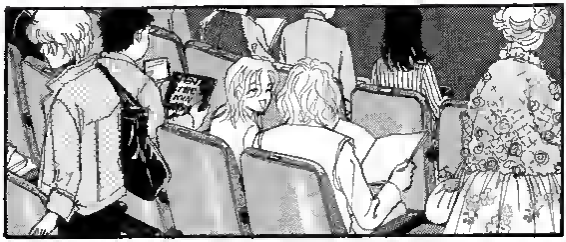

Come borrow from us again soon.
Consider it a collection fee. Who told ya to waste our time?
That money was an advance on my salary!
Give the leftover $1,000 back to me!
Wh-What?
Don't ever show your face in here again!
But I've finally had enough of you, Tami.
We've known each other for a long time.

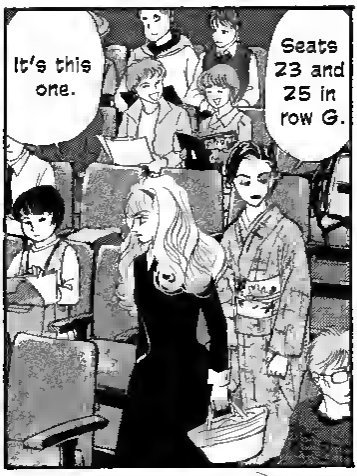
PRIDE 2

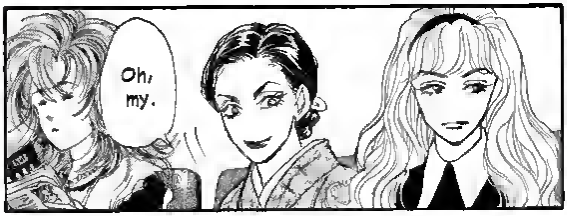
If you need to ask for another advance, I'll go with you.
Where did you get the $6,000 advance from?
I didn't think they'd be such bad guys.
I'm also a victim here, you know.
D-Don't say that, Fumi...
I was wrong...
But, you really saved me.
I caused you trouble, didn't I?
Sorry, Moe.
I thought you were a loser, but you're just trash.
I knew I should've killed you that time.
I'm begging you! Die already!
Why are you always getting in my way?!

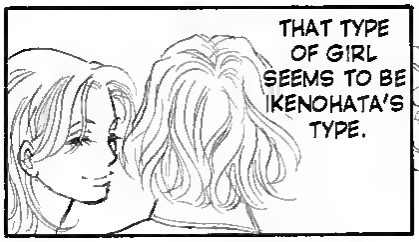
Mama Natsuko's *Ooshima* kimono is beautiful.
We're both wearing outfits that we can't wear at the club.
Thank you for inviting me.
Oh, my! You look cute today.
BEEP
I'm not familiar with it, so I apologize if it doesn't suit your taste.
An Off-Broadway musical?
OPEN THE MIND
SPONSORED BY QUEEN RECORD
I pulled this out from the back of my closet.
I need to dress formally at the club.
THAT BACK SILHOUETTE ...
HUH?

My, my. Look at that.
I thought he was in a hurry when he left. So it was for a date.
They look good together.
Very cute.
SHE'S RIGHT.
THEY REALLY DO LOOK GOOD TOGETHER.
SO HIS OTHER PLANS WAS A DATE.
We shouldn't! They're on a date!
I bet they'll be surprised if we call out to them.
I'll go buy a program.
You're right. What a shame.

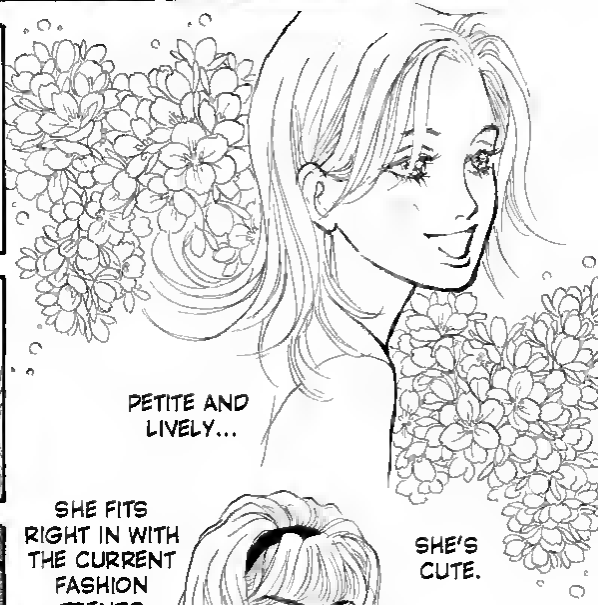


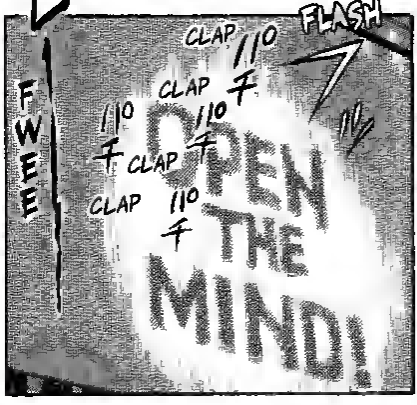

It's this one.
Seats 23 and 25 in row G.

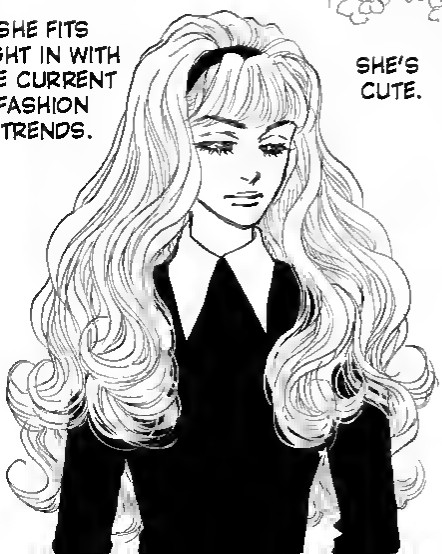

Oh, my.


THAT TYPE OF GIRL SEEMS TO BE IKENOHATA'S TYPE.

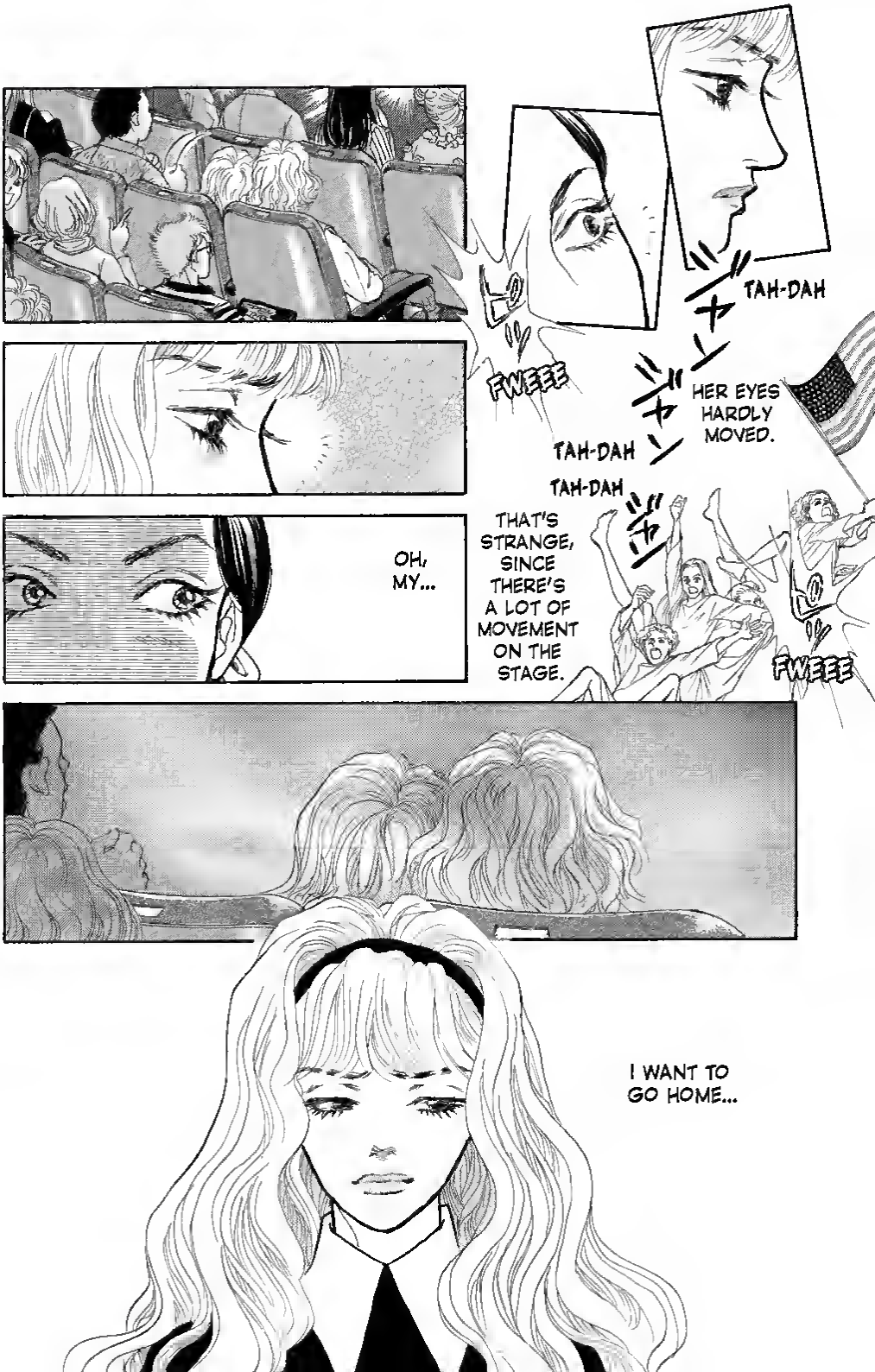
THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF ME...

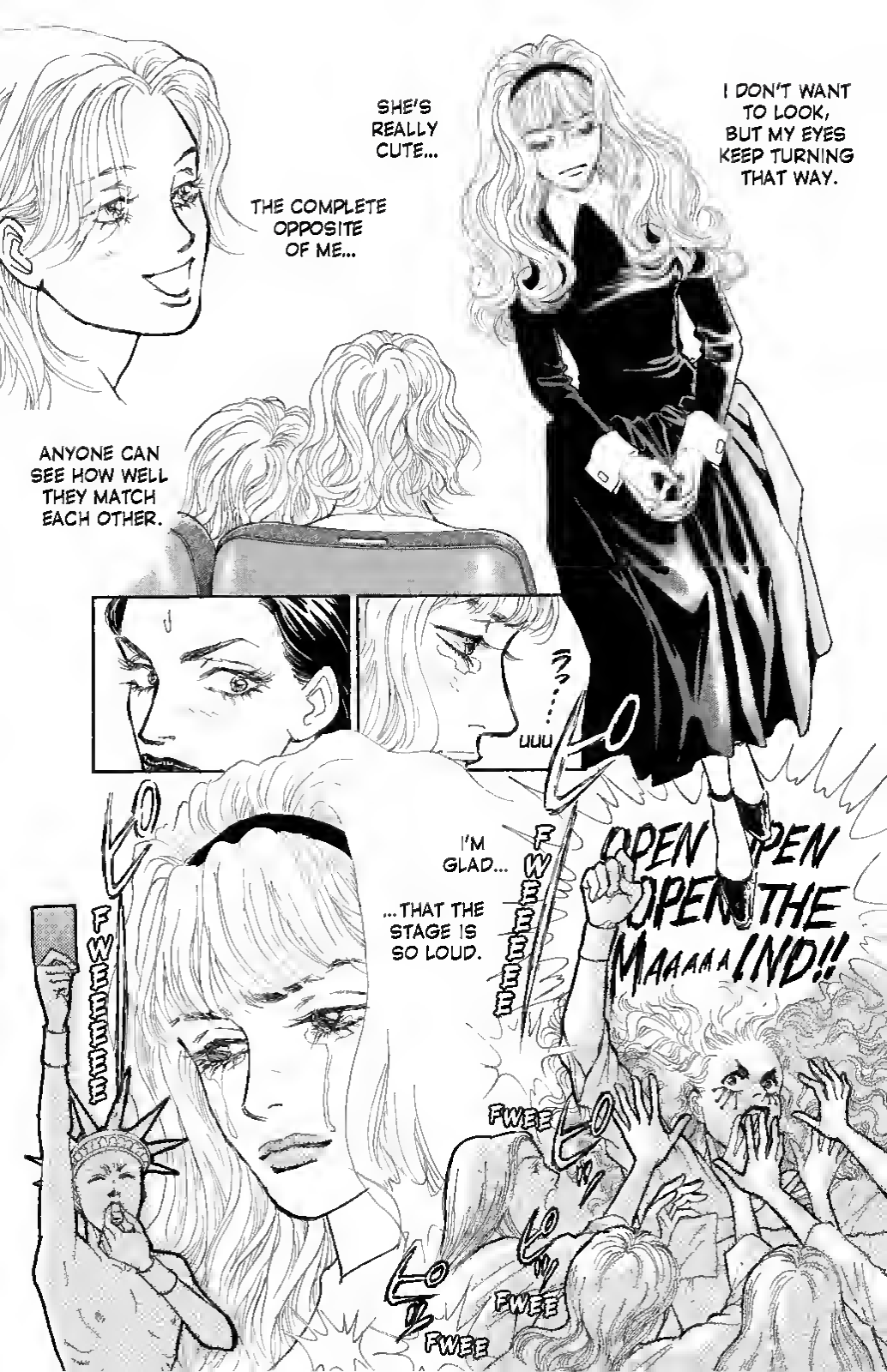

PETITE AND LIVELY...

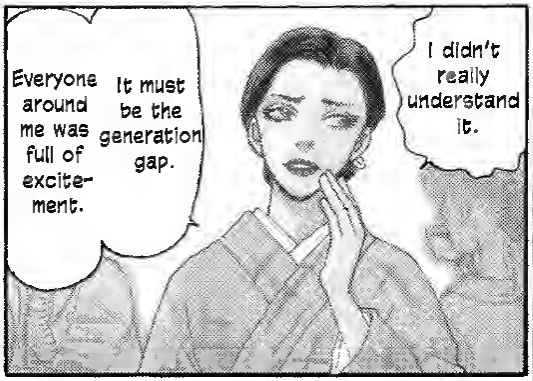

FWEE
CLAP
110千
FLASH
OPEN THE MIND!

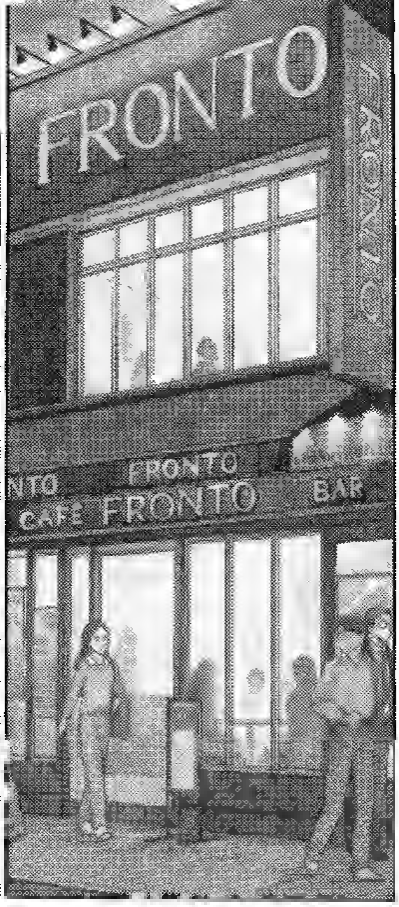

SHE FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE CURRENT FASHION TRENDS.
SHE'S CUTE.

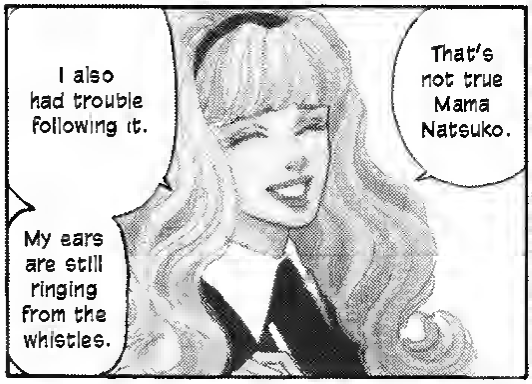
TAH-DAH
TAH-DAH
TAH-DAH
FWEEEEEEEE
OPEN THE MIND!!
RATHER THAN A MUSICAL, IT FEELS MORE LIKE A SINGING CIRCUS.
I SUPPOSE IT'S ENTERTAINING, AFTER ALL. SHE'S WATCHING SO INTENSELY.
But, it's still too noisy
FWEEEEEEEE
...ENTERTAINING, PAINFUL, AND AWKWARD.
I don't understand what's going on
THIS IS A BIT...
FWEE
FWEEEE


TAH-DAH
FWEEE
TAH-DAH
HER EYES HARDLY MOVED.
TAH-DAH
THAT'S STRANGE, SINCE THERE'S A LOT OF MOVEMENT ON THE STAGE.
FWEEE
OH, MY...
I WANT TO GO HOME...


I DON'T WANT TO LOOK, BUT MY EYES KEEP TURNING THAT WAY.
SHE'S REALLY CUTE...
THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ME...
ANYONE CAN SEE HOW WELL THEY MATCH EACH OTHER.
UUU
I'M GLAD...
...THAT THE STAGE IS SO LOUD.
FWEEEEEE
FWEEEEE


Everyone around me was full of excite-ment.
It must be the generation gap.
I didn't really understand it.

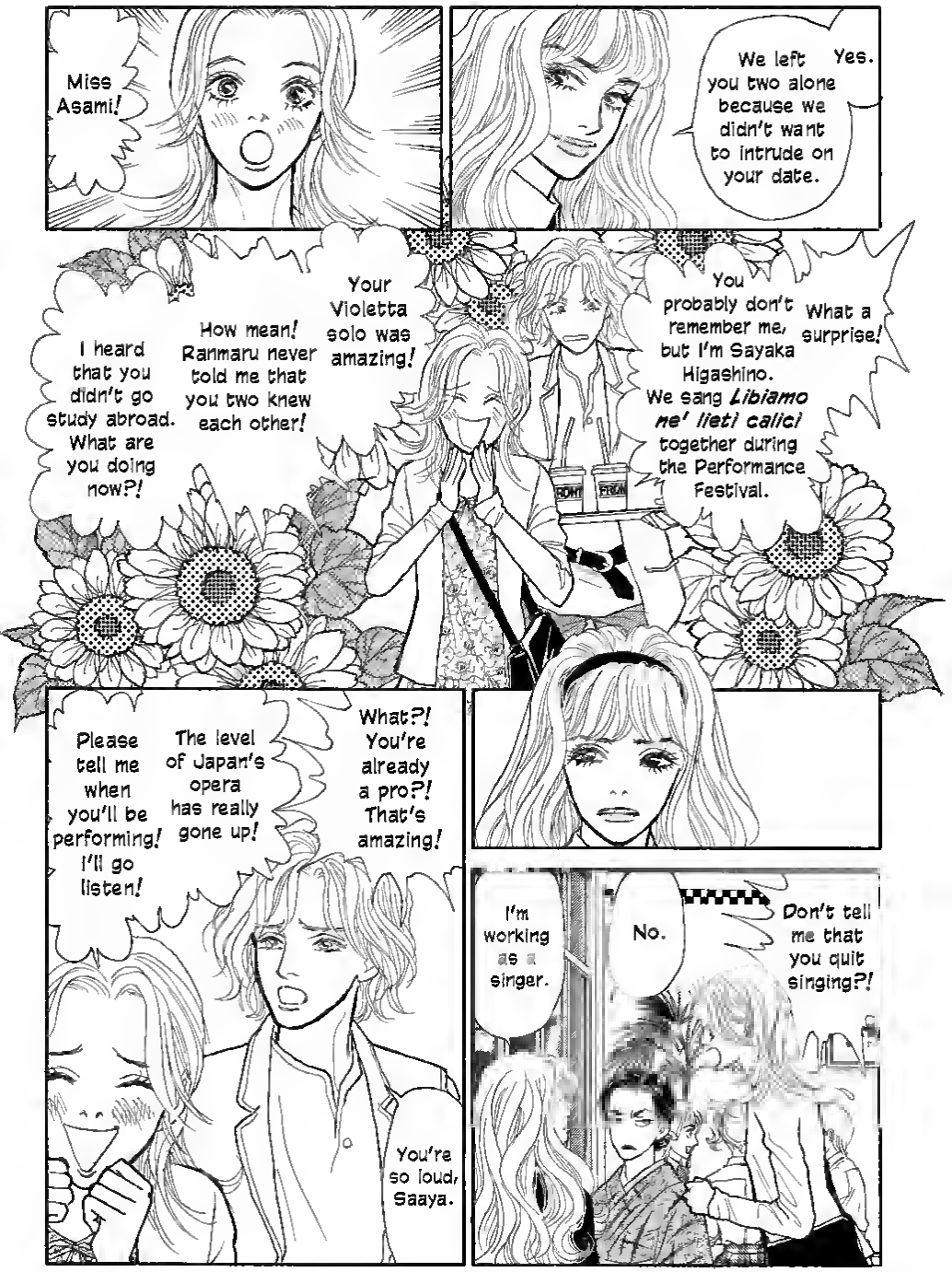

FRONTO
FRONTO
CAFE FRONTO BAR


I also had trouble following it.
That's not true Mama Natsuko.
My ears are still ringing from the whistles.

I CAN'T GET THAT IMAGE...
...OUT OF MY MIND.
NO...
NOT AGAIN.

PRIDE 2

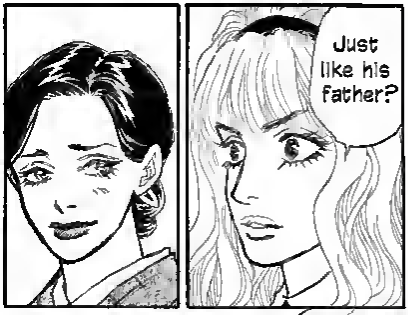
...AT HOW MUCH THAT BOTHERS ME.
BUT, I'M SURPRISED MYSELF...
THAT'S NOTHING UNUSUAL.
SO IKENOHATA IS ON A DATE.
Were you guys at the musical, too?
Huh?
DAMN! We should have sat farther in.

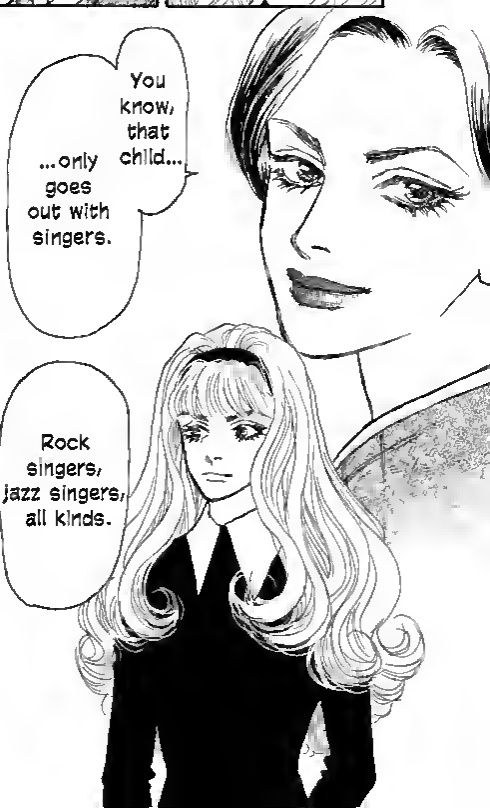

Miss Asami!
We left you two alone because we didn't want to intrude on your date.
Yes.
What a surprise!
You probably don't remember me, but I'm Sayaka Higashino. We sang *Libiamo ne' lieti calici* together during the Performance Festival.
Your Violetta solo was amazing!
How mean! Ranmaru never told me that you two knew each other!
I heard that you didn't go study abroad. What are you doing now?!
What?! You're already a pro?! That's amazing!
The level of Japan's opera has really gone up!
Please tell me when you'll be performing! I'll go listen!
You're so loud, Saaya.
Don't tell me that you quit singing?!
No.
I'm working as a singer.

What?! That's such a waste!
You're more suited for opera!
I'm not singing opera.
I'm singing jazz and chansons at a club.
There's a table open, so let's go.
Ran.
I don't care who you go out with, but...
...don't bring that girl to my house.
Your mother doesn't like the noisy ones.
I know.
What?! Mother?!
Did she just say, mother?!
Really, now.
I don't want to be called Mother by an air-headed girl like her.
タクシー
TAXI STAND

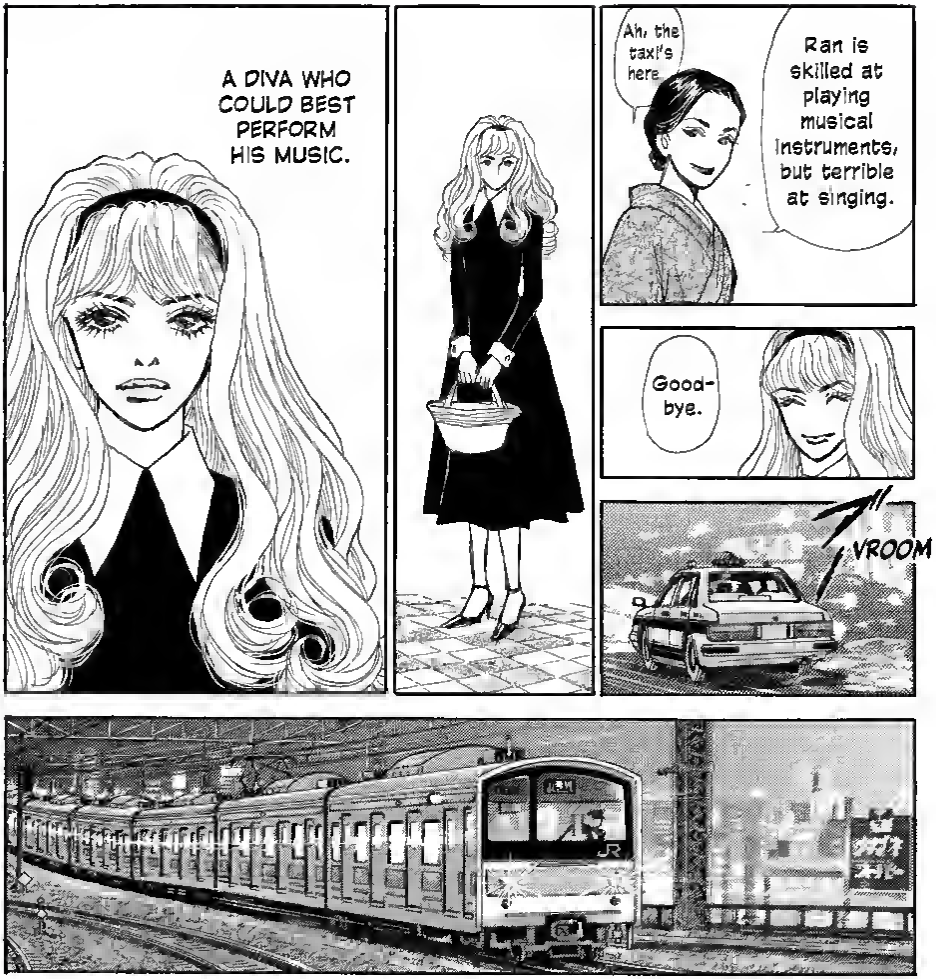
He quickly gets infatuated and quickly loses interest. The only thing that continues to interest him is music. Just like his father.
He's suitably nice with a suitable appearance, so he's suitably popular.
Ikenohata is really popular. It was always crazy around him at school.

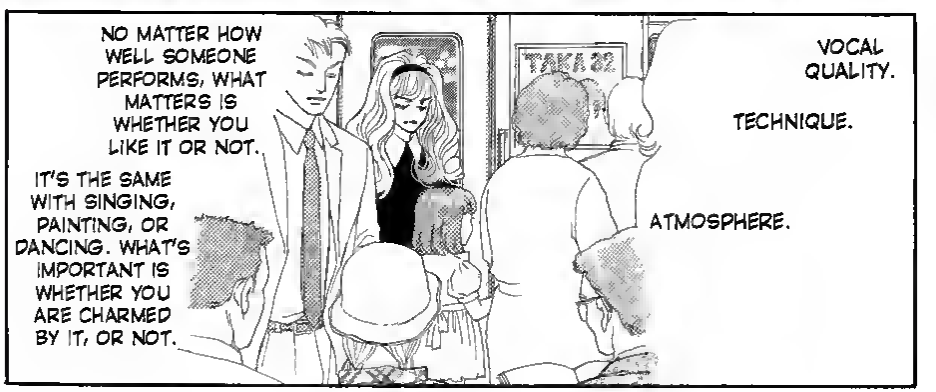
I couldn't be his diva, but...
His father was the same way.
...I wonder if he was searching for a diva who could best perform his music.


Just like his father?

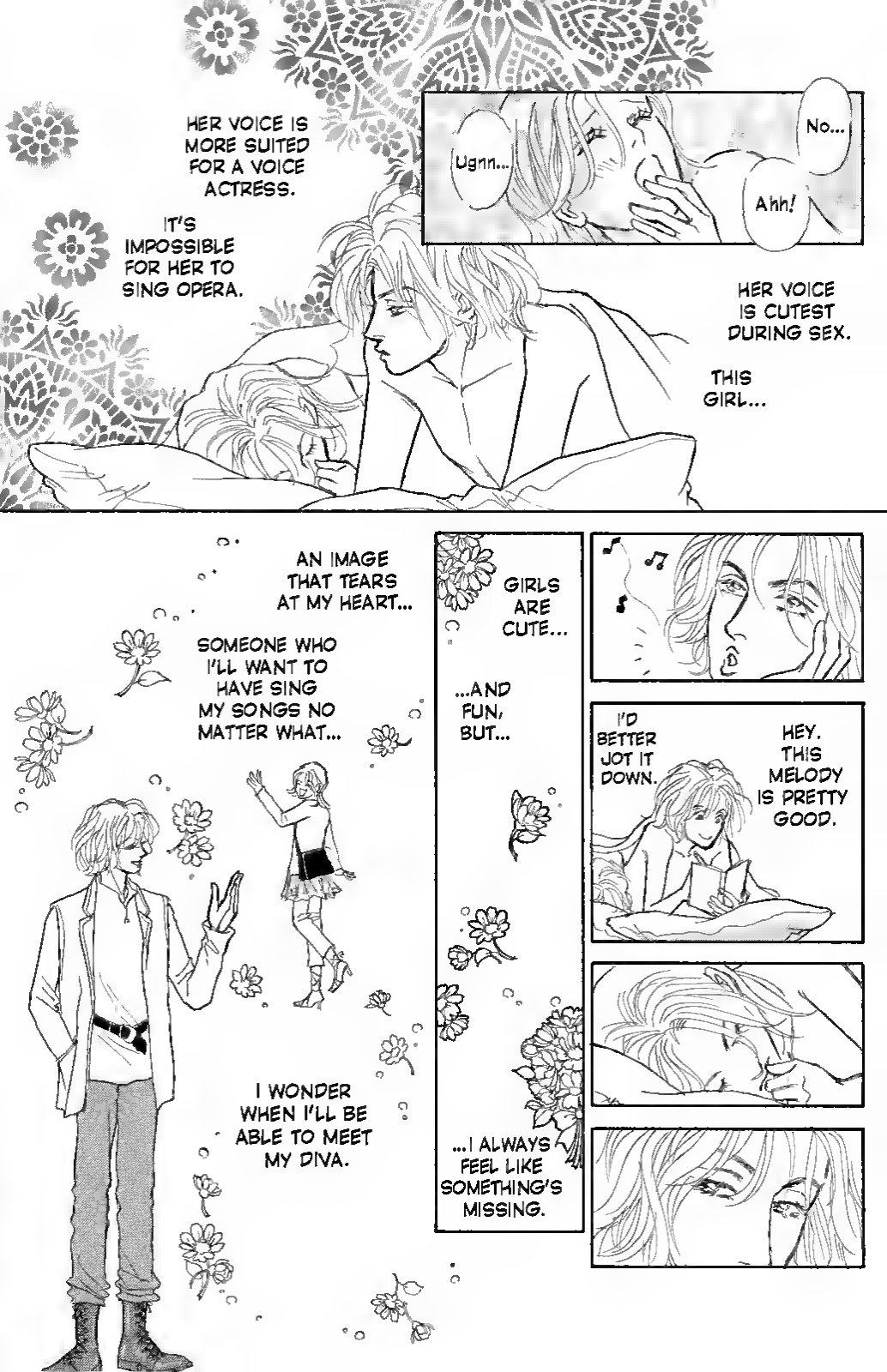

You know, that child...
...only goes out with singers.
Rock singers, jazz singers, all kinds.

PRIDE 2

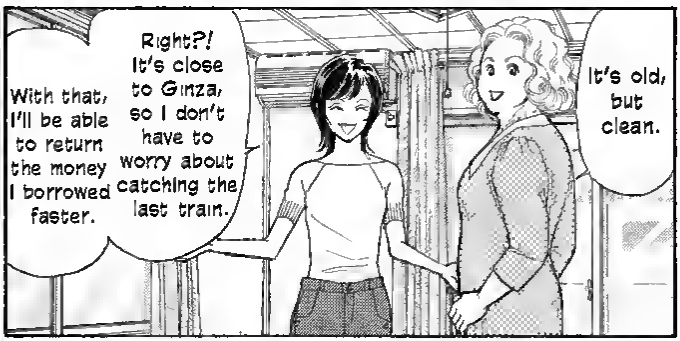

A DIVA WHO COULD BEST PERFORM HIS MUSIC.
Ah, the taxi's here.
Ran is skilled at playing musical instruments, but terrible at singing.
Good-bye.
VROOM

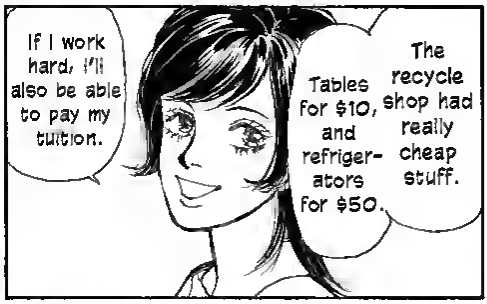

NO MATTER HOW WELL SOMEONE PERFORMS, WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
IT'S THE SAME WITH SINGING, PAINTING, OR DANCING. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHETHER YOU ARE CHARMED BY IT, OR NOT.
VOCAL QUALITY.
TECHNIQUE.
ATMOSPHERE.

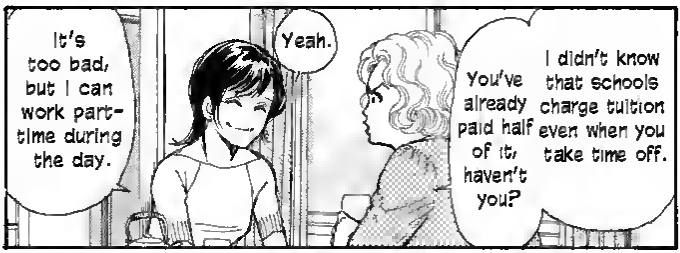
SINGING IN A WAY THAT EARNS POINTS IN A CONTEST...
SINGING IN A WAY THAT MAKES THE PROFESSORS FAVOR ME...
I WONDER IF IKENOHATA...
...FINDS MY SINGING CHARMING.
IT WAS ALWAYS FOR MY OWN SAKE.
I NEVER SANG FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.
...IF POSSIBLE...
BUT...
...I WANT TO BECOME IKENOHATA'S DIVA.

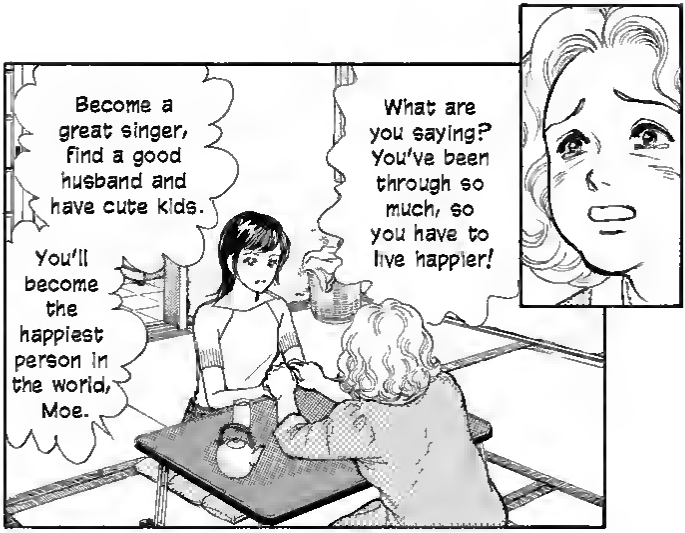

HER VOICE IS MORE SUITED FOR A VOICE ACTRESS.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO SING OPERA.
Ugnn...
No...
Ahh!
HER VOICE IS CUTEST DURING SEX.
THIS GIRL...
AN IMAGE THAT TEARS AT MY HEART...
SOMEONE WHO I'LL WANT TO HAVE SING MY SONGS NO MATTER WHAT...
I WONDER WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET MY DIVA.
GIRLS ARE CUTE...
...AND FUN, BUT...
...I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING.
I'D BETTER JOT IT DOWN.
HEY. THIS MELODY IS PRETTY GOOD.

I was able to become independent, so I guess now's the happiest time of my life.
When the going gets tough, I can just quit school and go study abroad.

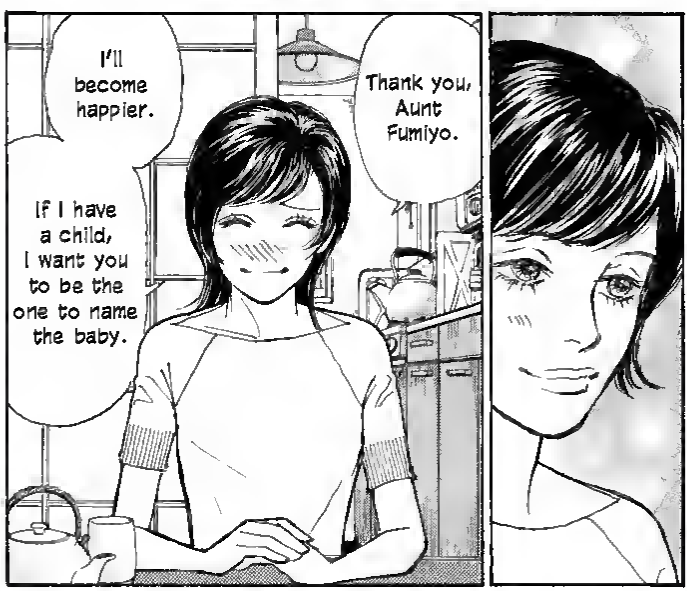

With that, I'll be able to return the money I borrowed faster.
Right?! It's close to Ginza, so I don't have to worry about catching the last train.
It's old, but clean.


If I work hard, I'll also be able to pay my tuition.
Tables for $10, and refrigerators for $50.
The recycle shop had really cheap stuff.


It's too bad, but I can work part-time during the day.
Yeah.
You've already paid half of it, haven't you?
I didn't know that schools charge tuition even when you take time off.

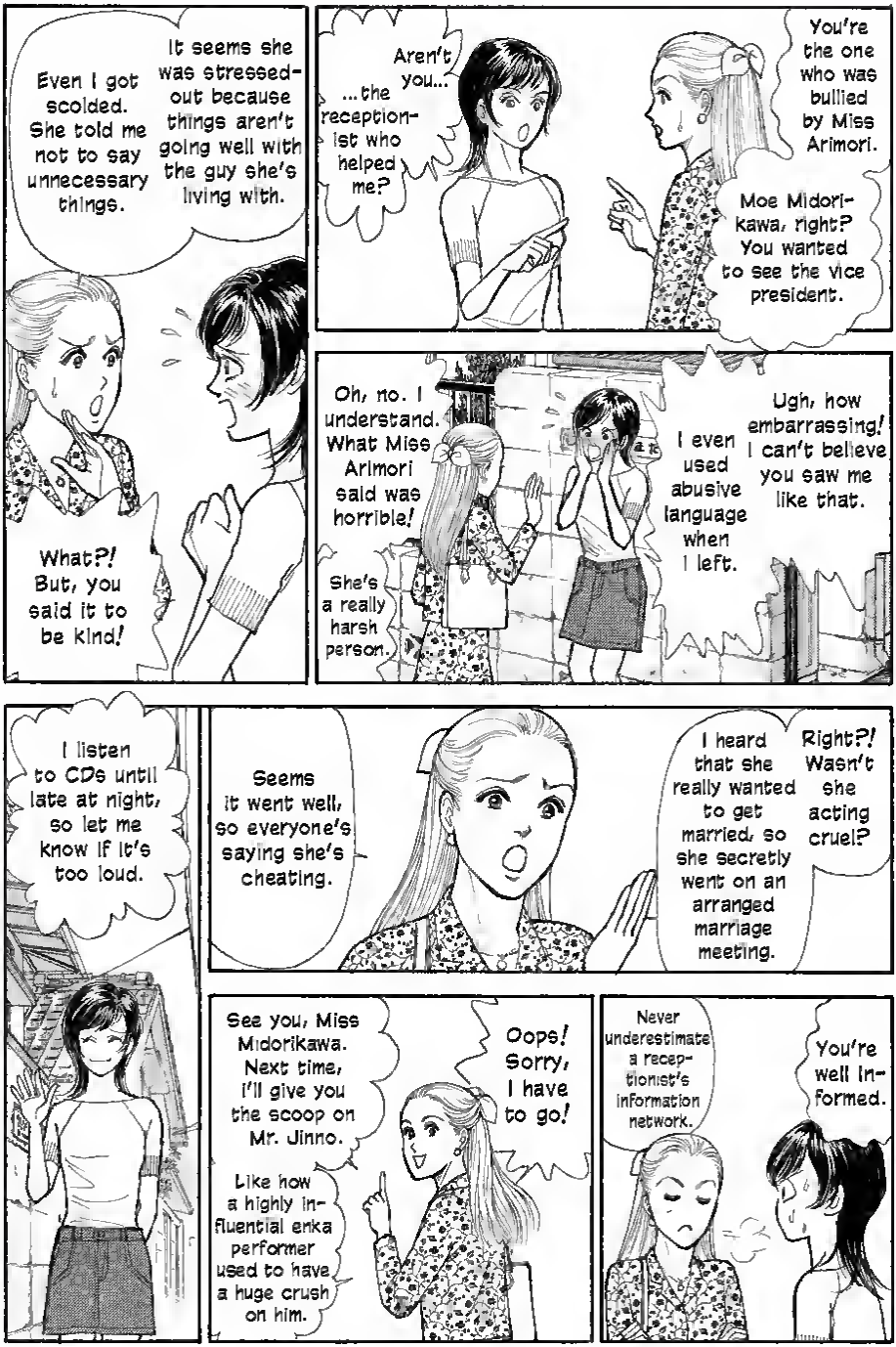

What are you saying? You've been through so much, so you have to live happier!
Become a great singer, find a good husband and have cute kids.
You'll become the happiest person in the world, Moe.

You're probably at an age where you want to find a man.
But, listen... You mustn't let a man weaken you.
You probably already know from watching Tami, but a woman's happiness depends on the man she chooses!

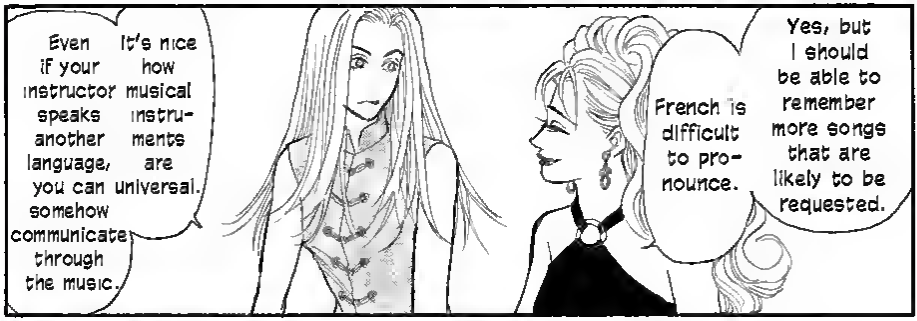

Thank you, Aunt Fumiyo.
I'll become happier.
If I have a child, I want you to be the one to name the baby.

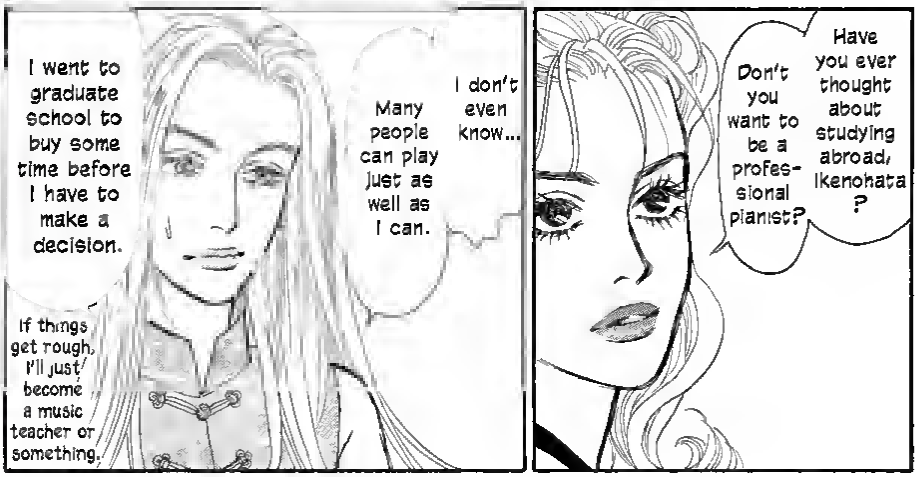
I FEEL LIKE I'VE FINALLY BEEN REWARDED FOR ALL MY HARD WORK.
I WORKED REALLY HARD FOR IT.
THE APARTMENT'S SMALL AND OLD, BUT TO ME, IT'S A BLESSING.
MY VERY OWN CASTLE THAT I CAN RETURN TO AT EASE. IT'S A CASTLE THAT I GOT ON MY OWN.
A NEW TOWN.
I'M LIVING ON MY OWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
You'll become the happiest person in the world, Moe.
Become a great singer, find a good husband and have cute kids.
I WANT TO BECOME HAPPIER AND HAPPIER.
あっ…
AH...
Are you the one who just moved upstairs?
I'm Morita. I live below you.
MADAME MATSUSHIMA'S LESSONS ARE SUFFOCATING AND RESTRICTING.
THAT REMINDS ME... I HAVEN'T SUNG FREELY IN A LONG TIME.
I WANT TO BECOME A FREELY-SINGING HEROINE, AND ENJOY MYSELF MORE WHILE SINGING.

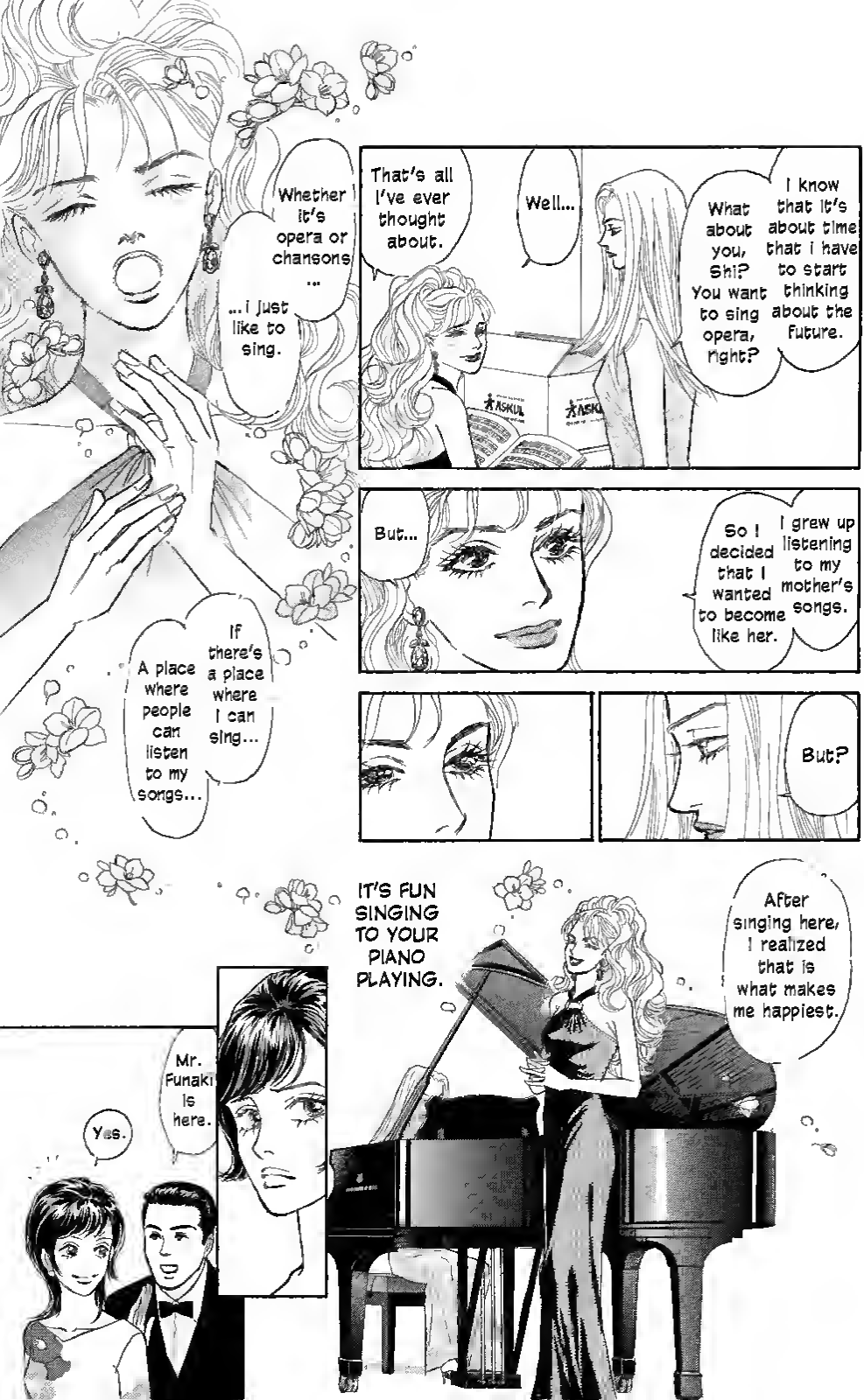
PRIDE 2


Even I got scolded. She told me not to say unnecessary things.
It seems she was stressed-out because things aren't going well with the guy she's living with.
What?! But, you said it to be kind!
Aren't you... ...the receptionist who helped me?
You're the one who was bullied by Miss Arimori.
Moe Midorikawa, right? You wanted to see the vice president.
Oh, no. I understand. What Miss Arimori said was horrible!
She's a really harsh person.
I even used abusive language when I left.
Ugh, how embarrassing! I can't believe you saw me like that.
I listen to CDs until late at night, so let me know if it's too loud.
Seems it went well, so everyone's saying she's cheating.
I heard that she really wanted to get married, so she secretly went on an arranged marriage meeting.
Right?! Wasn't she acting cruel?
See you, Miss Midorikawa. Next time, I'll give you the scoop on Mr. Jinno.
Like how a highly influential enka performer used to have a huge crush on him.
Oops! Sorry, I have to go!
Never underestimate a receptionist's information network.
You're well informed.

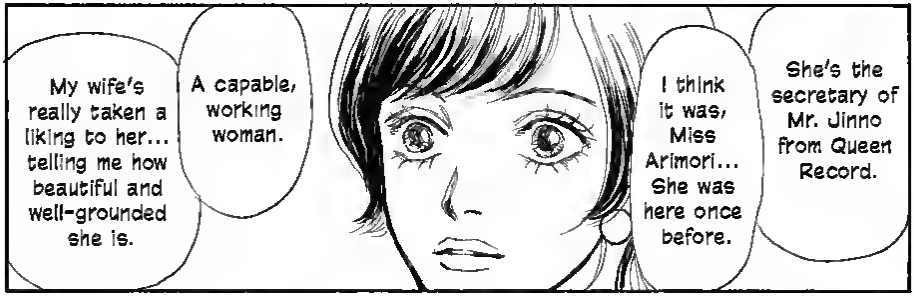
It's fine.
Sorry about yesterday.
カチャ
KA-CHAK
You've already increased your repertoire by a lot.
You're really serious.
2F
2F
KOB
DUO
NADJA
5F KORYUU
5F SERRA
4F PRIMA DONNA
3F PRIMA DONNA
2F SATOSHI
B1 CLUB KIKUMI
GINZA YANAGI BLD

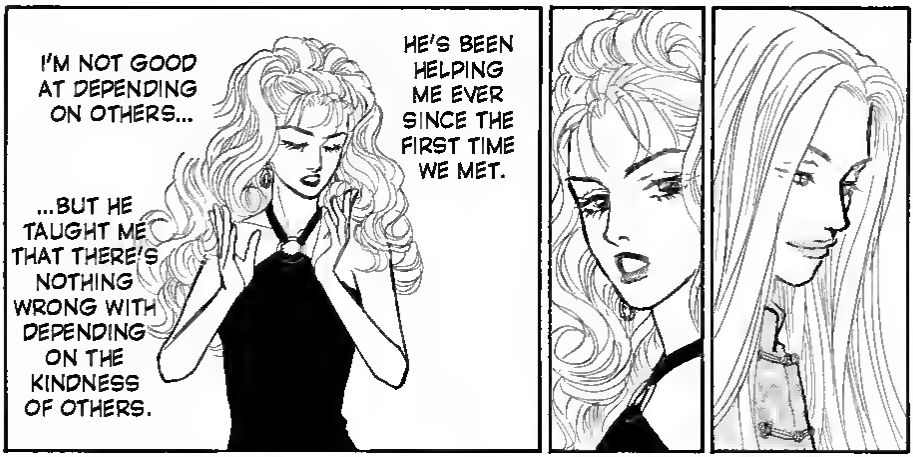

Even if your instructor speaks another language, you can somehow communicate through the music.
It's nice how musical instruments are universal.
French is difficult to pronounce.
Yes, but I should be able to remember more songs that are likely to be requested.

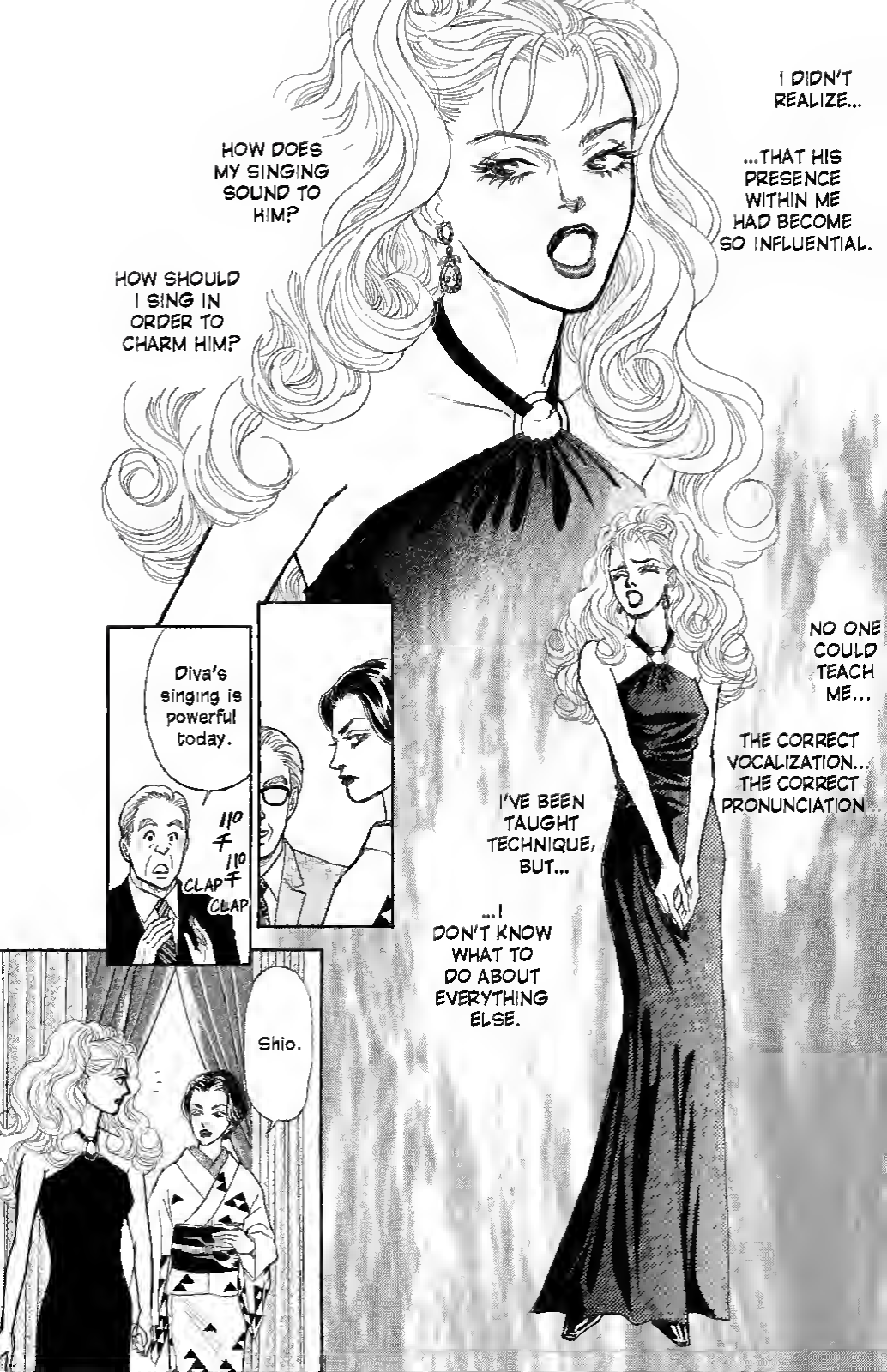

I went to graduate school to buy some time before I have to make a decision.
If things get rough, I'll just become a music teacher or something.
Many people can play just as well as I can.
I don't even know...
Don't you want to be a professional pianist?
Have you ever thought about studying abroad, Ikenohata?


Whether it's opera or chansons ...
...I just like to sing.
If there's a place where I can sing...
A place where people can listen to my songs...
That's all I've ever thought about.
Well...
What about you, Shi? You want to sing opera, right?
I know that it's about time that I have to start thinking about the future.
But...
So I decided that I wanted to become like her.
I grew up listening to my mother's songs.
But?
IT'S FUN SINGING TO YOUR PIANO PLAYING.
After singing here, I realized that is what makes me happiest.
Mr. Funaki is here.
Yes.

It was coincidental, actually.
Wow! Congratulations!
What happened?
It seems that my son's wife has been decided.
Something good happened today, so I was thinking of ordering a bottle of champagne.
Oh, Moe.
Welcome!


My wife's really taken a liking to her... telling me how beautiful and well-grounded she is.
A capable, working woman.
I think it was, Miss Arimori... She was here once before.
She's the secretary of Mr. Jinno from Queen Record.


I'M NOT GOOD AT DEPENDING ON OTHERS...
...BUT HE TAUGHT ME THAT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH DEPENDING ON THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS.
HE'S BEEN HELPING ME EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET.


I DIDN'T REALIZE...
...THAT HIS PRESENCE WITHIN ME HAD BECOME SO INFLUENTIAL.
HOW DOES MY SINGING SOUND TO HIM?
HOW SHOULD I SING IN ORDER TO CHARM HIM?
NO ONE COULD TEACH ME...
THE CORRECT VOCALIZATION... THE CORRECT PRONUNCIATION...
I'VE BEEN TAUGHT TECHNIQUE, BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE.
Diva's singing is powerful today.
CLAP
CLAP
Shio.

Ah.
Yes...
Tone it down a bit.
It was a bit strained.
WHIRR
ウィー
I want to ask him to meet me and escort me here.
I'll see him out, Mama.
Please come again.
Thank you very much, Mr. Funaki.
Such a hard worker.
But I don't want to tell on her, so...
There seems to be a rumor going around about Miss Arimori.
I'm friends with one of the receptionists at Queen Record.
I wasn't sure if I should tell you or not, but...
...I think it's better if I do.
Wh-What sort of rumor?

That's why I asked to see you out myself. I told Mama I'd ask you to meet me and escort me to the club.

I see. But, I'm curious about that rumor.

She would definitely be angry if she was with us.

Mama forbids us to discuss our clients' personal matters.

I'll tell Mama that I'll escort you to the club.

Of course!

You have to keep it a secret that I told you, OK?

She wanted to get married, so she went on an arranged marriage meeting.

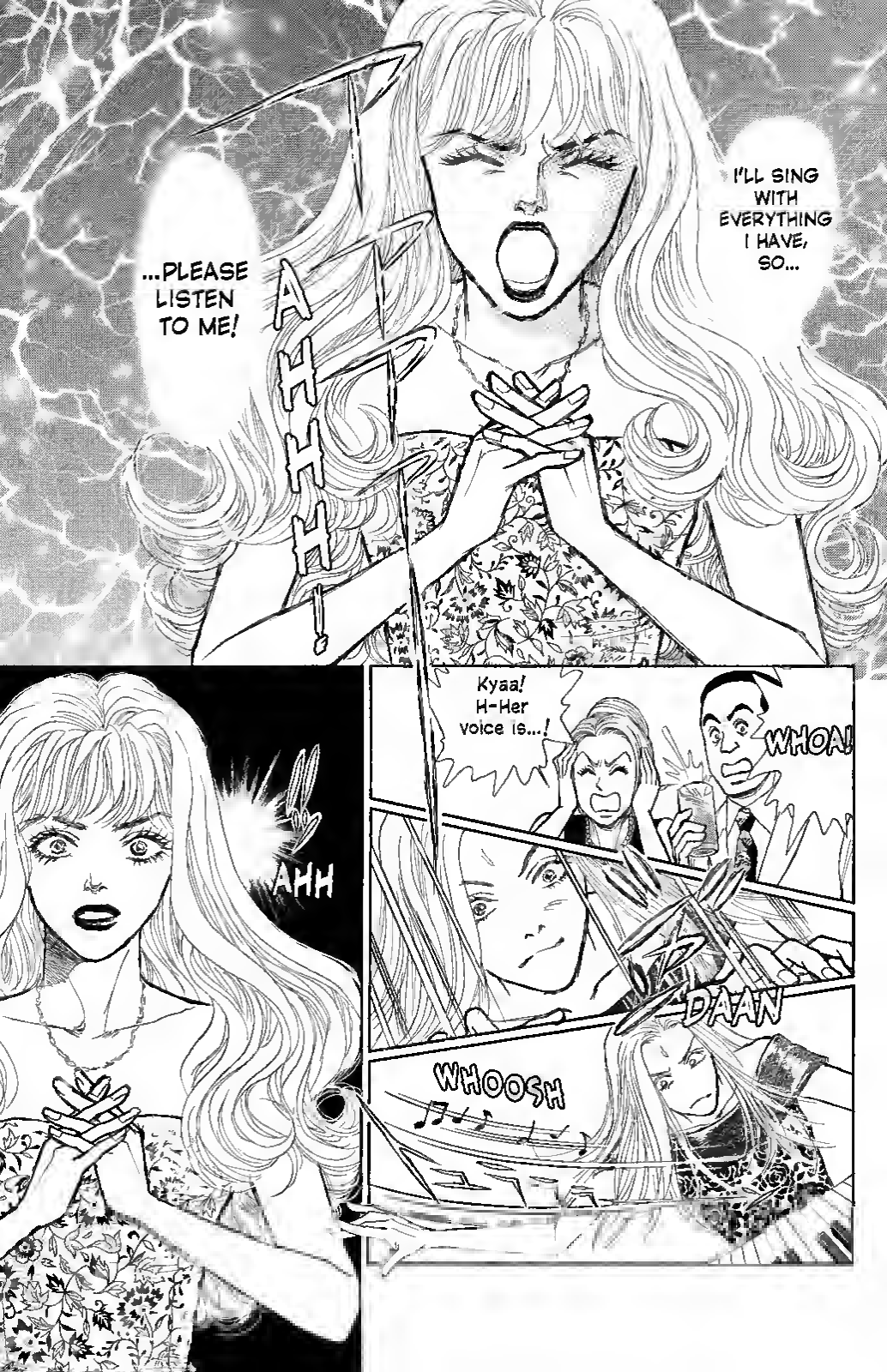
It seems things were not going well between Miss Arimori and the man she's living with.

She's living with a man?!

If we found that out after the wedding, my son would have been shamed.
Thank you, Moe!
N-No... I must make a thorough investigation.
My wife hates that kind of thing! If what you say is true...
Let's keep it that way.
Yes, of course.
I won't tell anyone anything.
Thank you very much. Please be careful.
For you... Give yourself a treat.
HEH HEH...

WHEN I SING THIS WAY...
COMFORTABLY AND ELEGANTLY...
EVEN THOUGH I'M SINGING...
...NO ONE'S LISTENING.
...THE CUSTOMERS GRADUALLY STOP LISTENING.

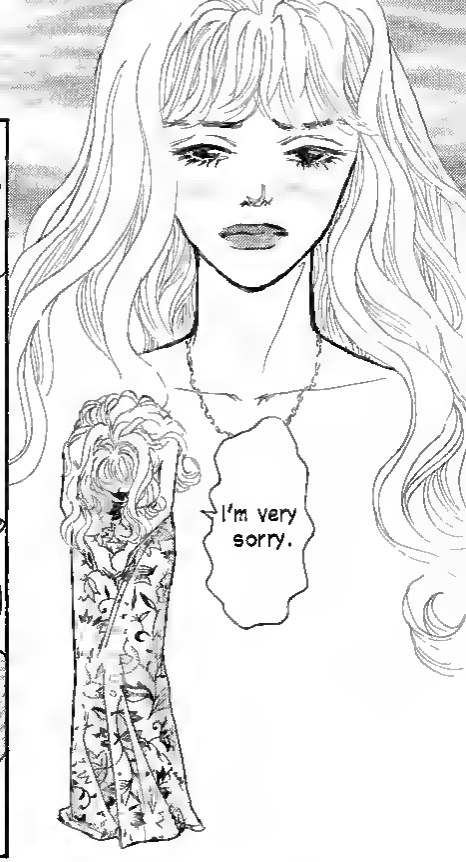
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKED THE SONG, LOVE ME TENDER?
HEH...
WERE THEY LISTENING...
...JUST BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING NEW?
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
SO WHY AREN'T YOU LISTENING?
I DON'T WANT TO BE A SINGER THAT NO ONE LISTENS TO!
I WANT TO BE A DIVA.
IS IKENOHATA FINE WITH THIS?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S PLAYING SO BEAUTIFULLY, NO ONE'S LISTENING.
AT THIS RATE, THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.


I'LL SING WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE, SO...
AHHH!
...PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
Kyaa! H-Her voice is...!
WHOA!
DAAN
WHOOSH
AHH

That scared me!
What? So this was Mama's prank?
HA HA
I hope everyone was pleased with Prima Donna's style of dispersing the feeling of dampness.
Is everyone awake now?
おほほほほ
OH HO HO
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Like ultra-sonic waves.
She really let out her voice.
It will soon be the humid season, after all.
My, my. That's too bad. Did you come close?
Mama. We old people have weak hearts, so take it easy on us.
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
I definitely feel energized now.
That certainly surprised me!
Get your act together.
OFFICE
I thought all the glass was going to break.
The vocals of someone who studies voice is amazing.
Even Miss Shio got carried away.

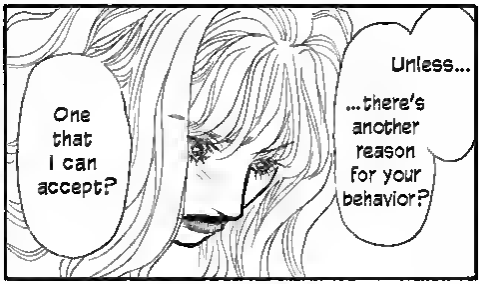
PRIDE 2

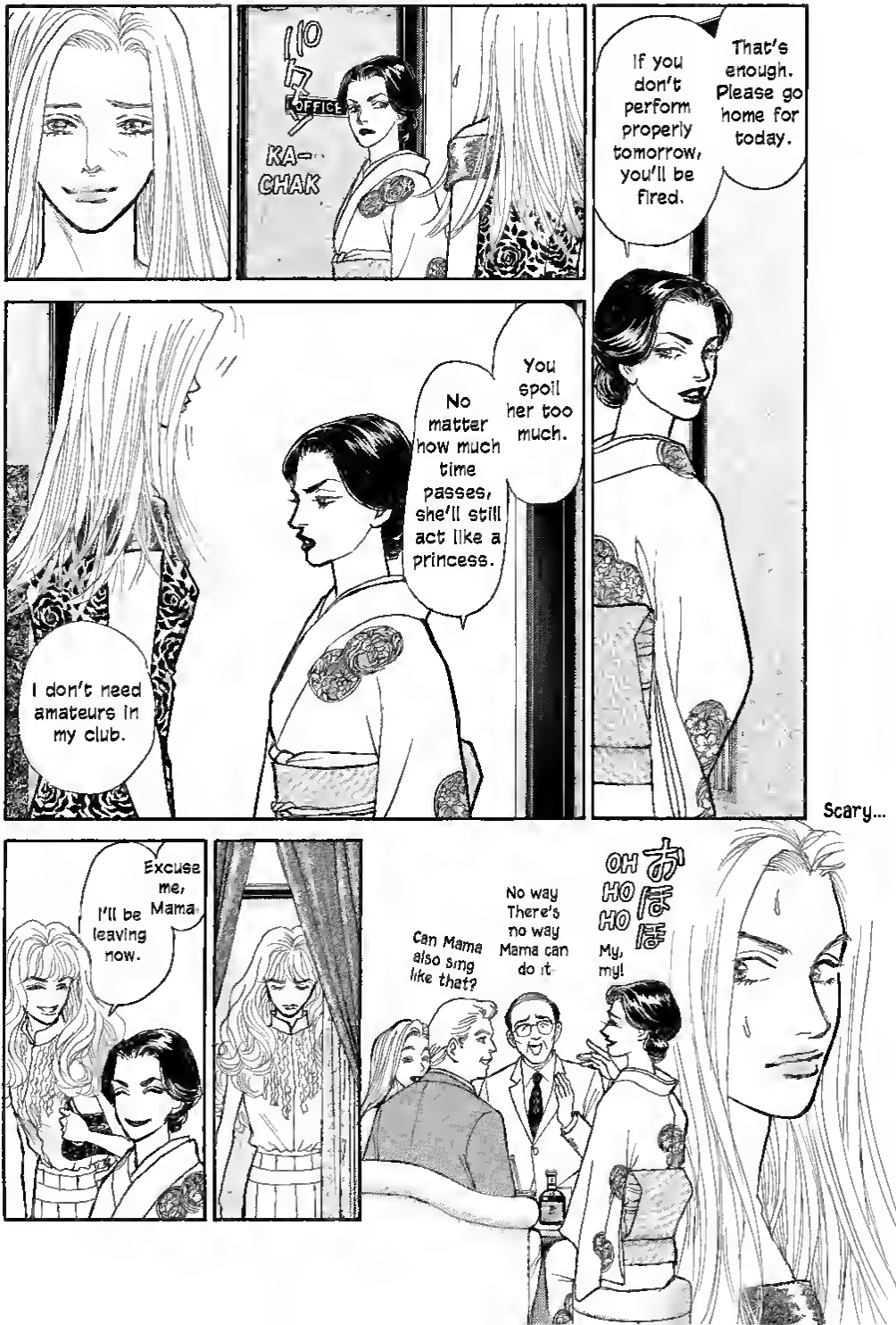
Until now, everyone made a fuss whenever you sang. But you're not a student anymore.
Really! No one was listening, so you got hysterical. How childish.
Yes...


I'm very sorry.

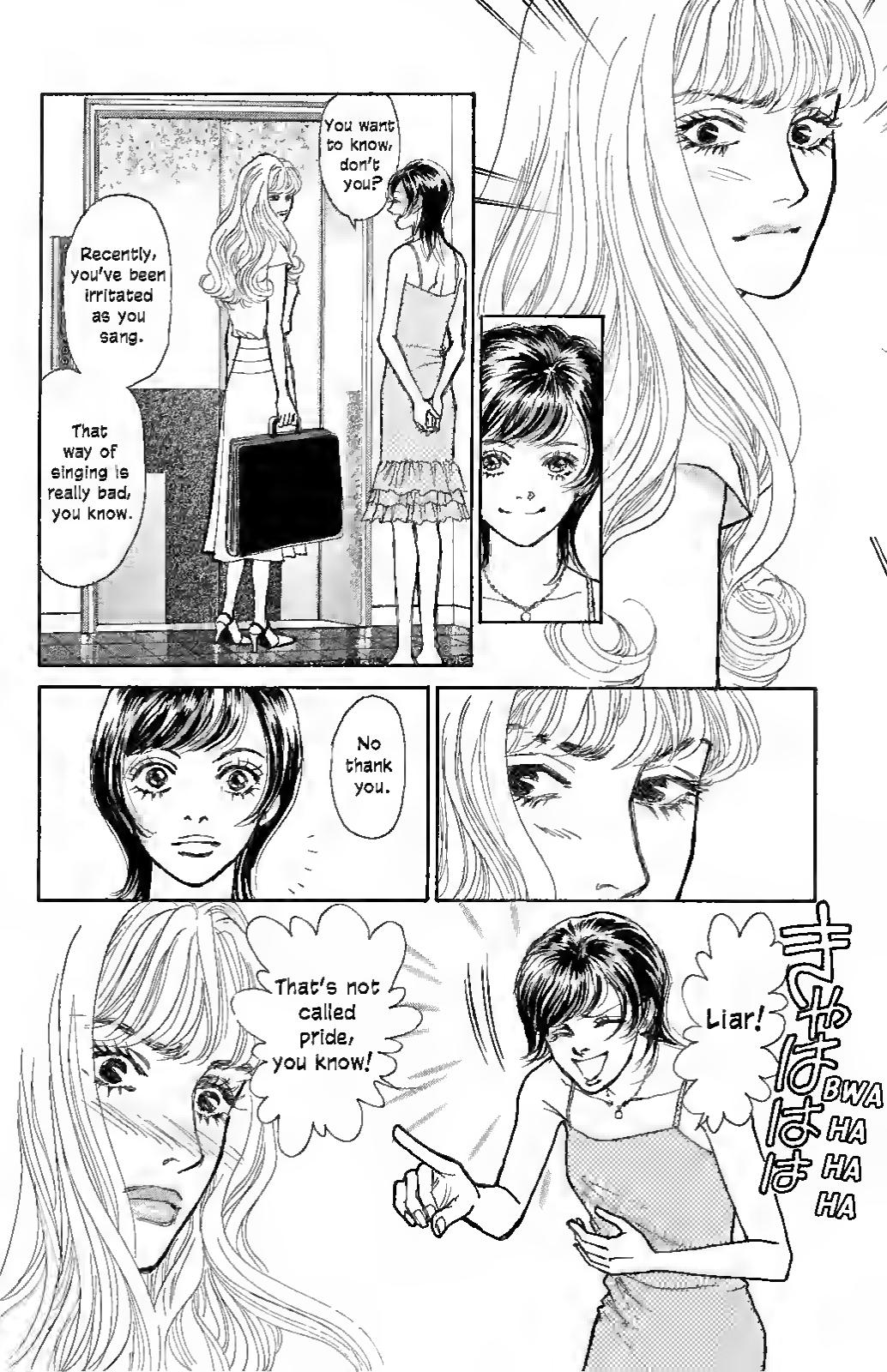
Singers and hostesses are necessary only to entertain the customers.
And as supporting players, they must act accordingly. Not too pushy or too careless.
The *customer* has the leading role. Both the singer and the hostess must know that they are only supporting players.
This is a place where people can enjoy themselves while they drink.

No... I deeply apologize for my behavior.


One that I can accept?
Unless... ...there's another reason for your behavior?


OFFICE
KA-CHAK
That's enough. Please go home for today.
If you don't perform properly tomorrow, you'll be fired.
You spoil her too much.
No matter how much time passes, she'll still act like a princess.
I don't need amateurs in my club.
Scary...
Excuse me, Mama.
I'll be leaving now.
Can Mama also sing like that?
No way There's no way Mama can do it
My, my!
おほほほ
OH HO HO

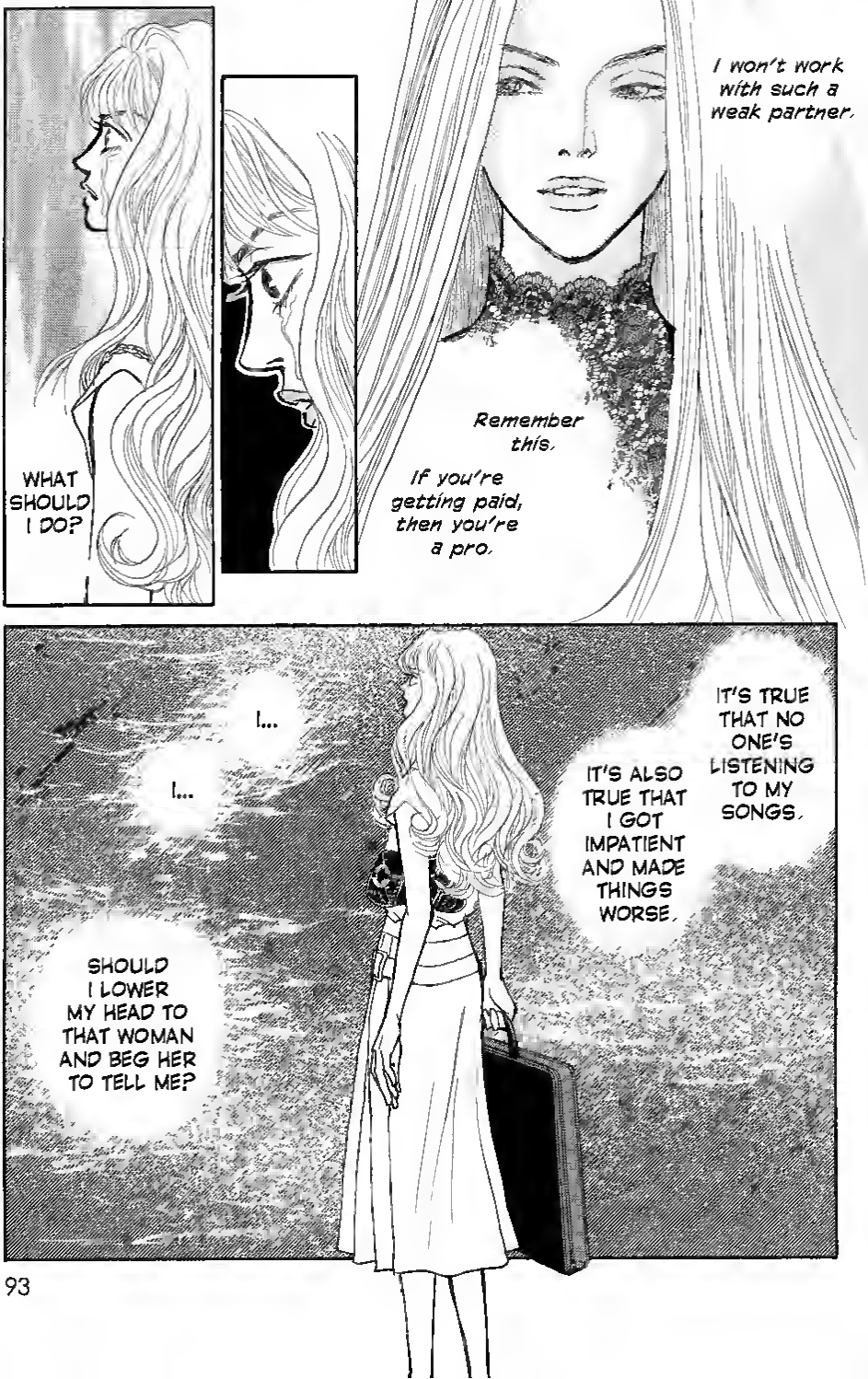
Only one performance this time?
Good work tonight.
Miss Shio has to attend a wake tonight.
110タン
CLACK
Hey.
Do you know why the customers aren't listening to your songs?
Want me to tell you?


You want to know, don't you?
Recently, you've been irritated as you sang.
That way of singing is really bad, you know.
No thank you.
That's not called pride, you know!
Liar!
まぬはBWA HA HA HA

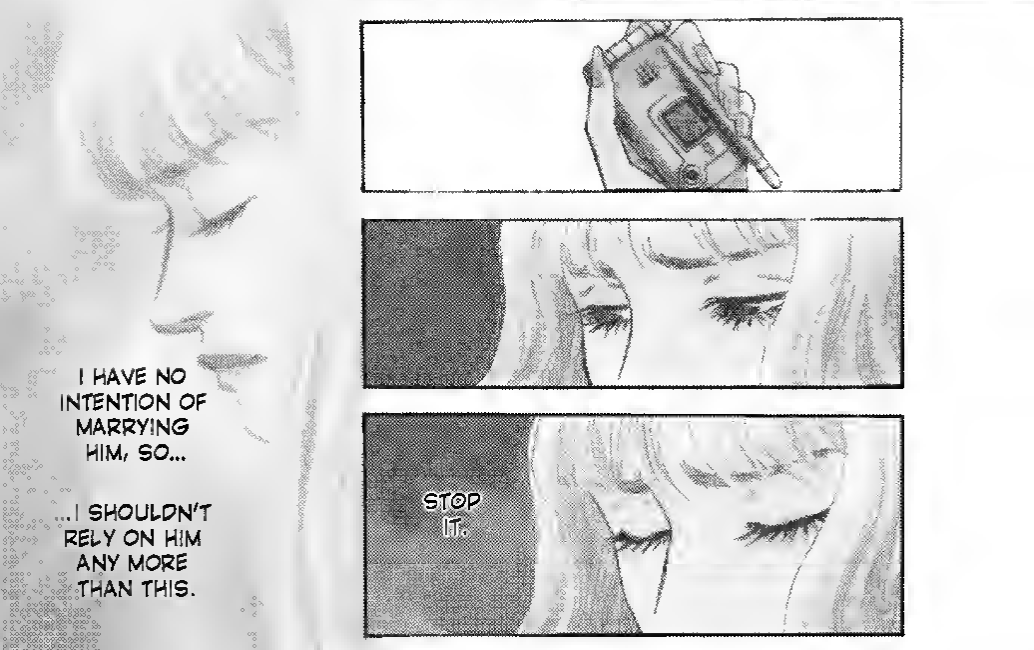
It's called *vanity*.
FRUSTRATING.
FRUSTRATING.
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO SAY A SINGLE WORD BACK.
FRUSTRATING.

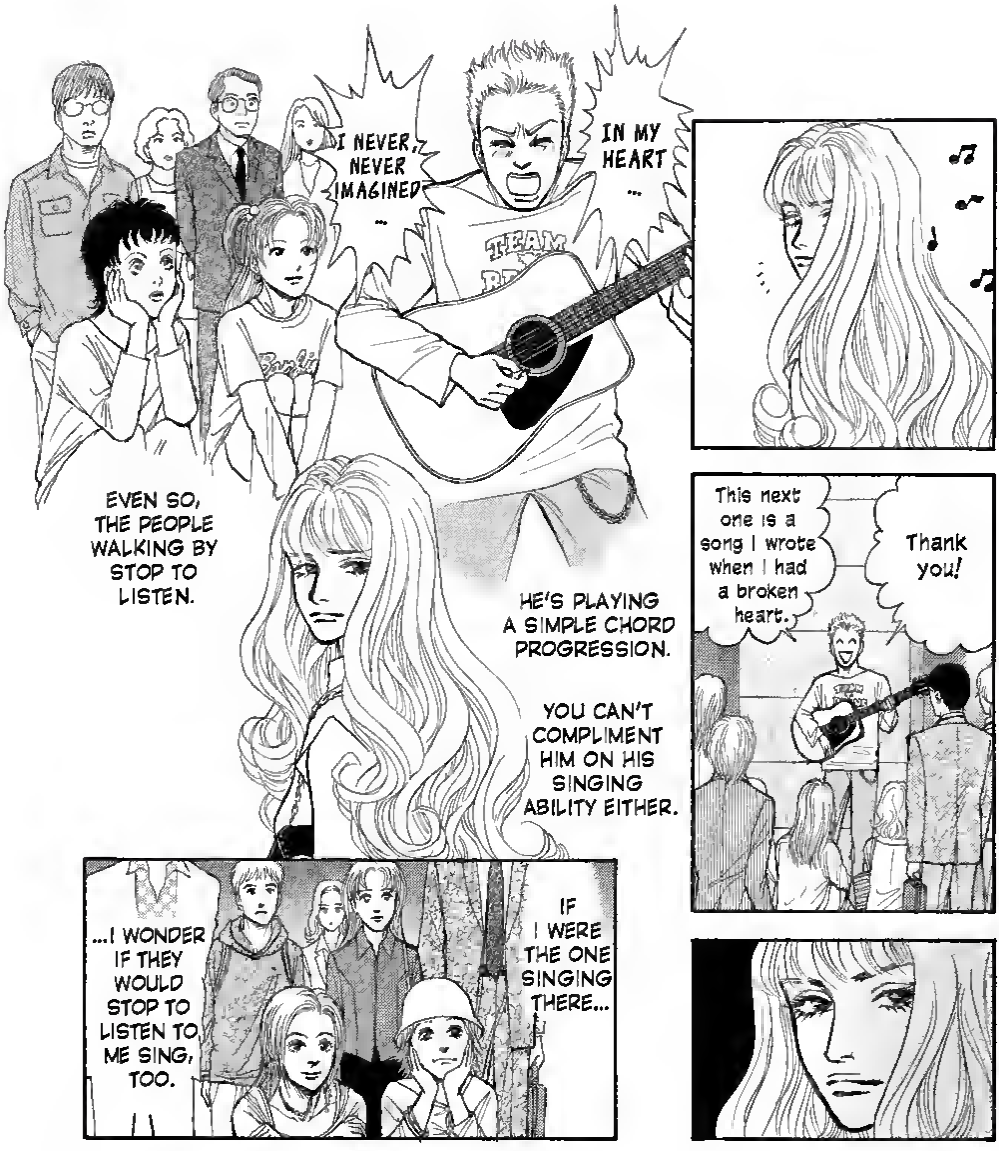
I WANTED TO BE IKENOHATA'S DIVA.
EVEN I FIND THAT REASON UNACCEPTABLE.
I DIDN'T WANT IKENOHATA TO THINK THAT I WAS A SINGER THAT NO ONE LISTENS TO.
THAT'S WHY I ACTED THAT WAY.
IT'S HUMILIATING!
I WAS SO HUMILIATED THAT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
HOW MANY TIMES WILL IT TAKE BEFORE I'M SATISFIED?
THIS CHEAP PRIDE THAT'S NOT EVEN WORTH PROTECTING...
I'VE SHAMED MOTHER...
...AND I'VE BEEN MADE A FOOL OF BY THAT WOMAN.
EVEN IKENOHATA...
WHEN THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY I WANT...
...I GET HYSTERICAL.

PRIDE 2


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I won't work with such a weak partner.
Remember this.
If you're getting paid, then you're a pro.
I...
I...
SHOULD I LOWER MY HEAD TO THAT WOMAN AND BEG HER TO TELL ME?
IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT I GOT IMPATIENT AND MADE THINGS WORSE.
IT'S TRUE THAT NO ONE'S LISTENING TO MY SONGS.

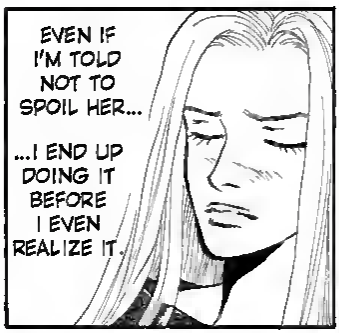
What would you say to us getting married?


I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MARRYING HIM, SO...
...I SHOULDN'T RELY ON HIM ANY MORE THAN THIS.
STOP IT.


I NEVER, NEVER IMAGINED ...
IN MY HEART ...
EVEN SO, THE PEOPLE WALKING BY STOP TO LISTEN.
HE'S PLAYING A SIMPLE CHORD PROGRESSION.
YOU CAN'T COMPLIMENT HIM ON HIS SINGING ABILITY EITHER.
This next one is a song I wrote when I had a broken heart.
Thank you!
...I WONDER IF THEY WOULD STOP TO LISTEN TO ME SING, TOO.
IF I WERE THE ONE SINGING THERE...

I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE DON'T WORRY ALL BY YOURSELF.
CLACK
110
RANMARU IKENOHATA
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
DON'T WORRY ALL BY YOURSELF.
IKENOHATA...

PRIDE 2

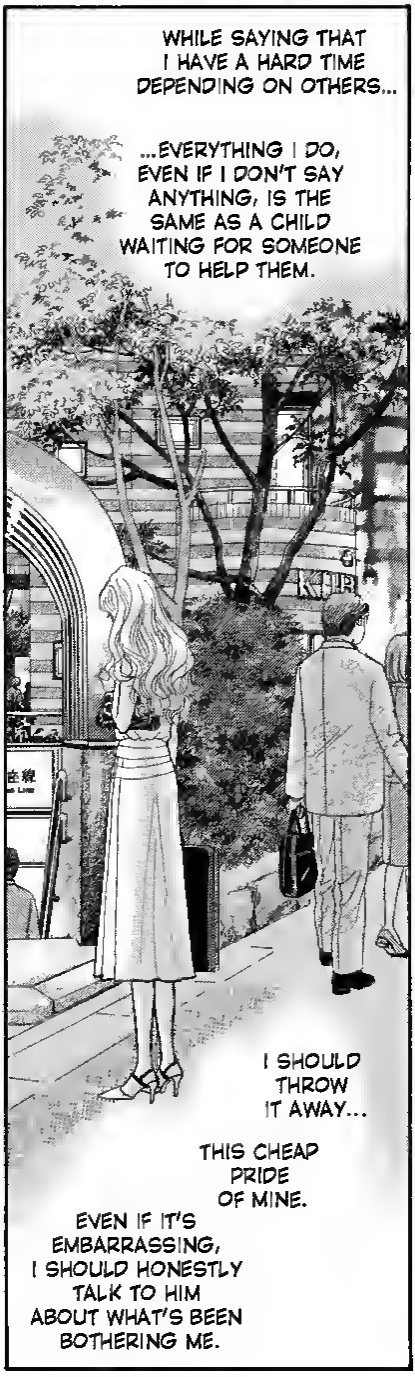


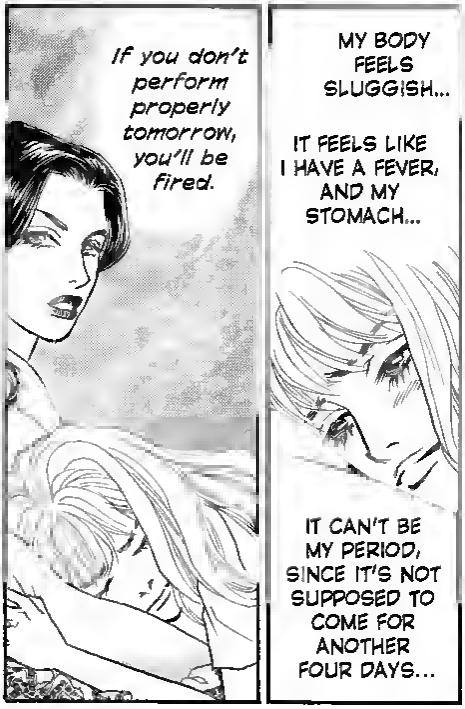
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO SPOIL HER OUT OF PITY.
WHEN A WEAK, CLUMSY, AND HARDWORKING GIRL TRIES TO BECOME STRONGER...
It's been a while since I've done a piano solo

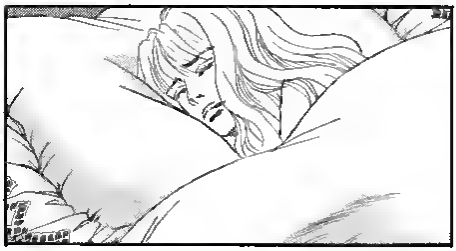
I'M PATHETIC AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF.

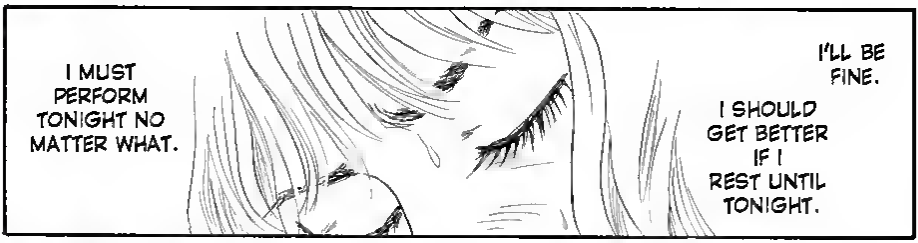
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.

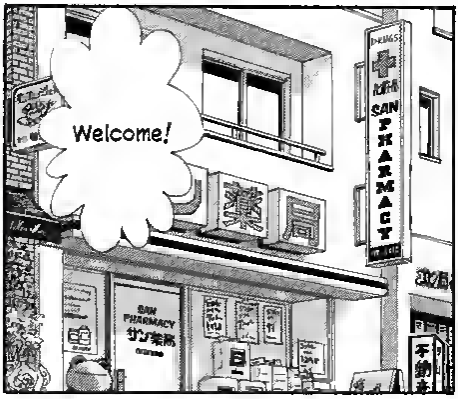
I HAVE TO AT LEAST STOP RUNNING AWAY FROM THAT PART OF MYSELF.

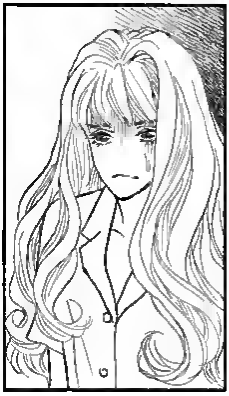

WHILE SAYING THAT I HAVE A HARD TIME DEPENDING ON OTHERS...
...EVERYTHING I DO, EVEN IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING, IS THE SAME AS A CHILD WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP THEM.
I SHOULD THROW IT AWAY...
THIS CHEAP PRIDE OF MINE.
EVEN IF IT'S EMBARRASSING, I SHOULD HONESTLY TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.

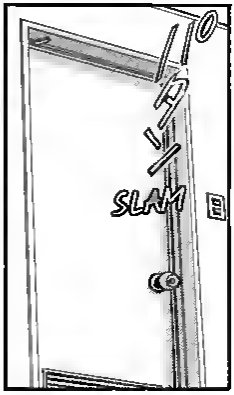

If you don't perform properly tomorrow, you'll be fired.
MY BODY FEELS SLUGGISH...
IT FEELS LIKE I HAVE A FEVER, AND MY STOMACH...
IT CAN'T BE MY PERIOD, SINCE IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO COME FOR ANOTHER FOUR DAYS...

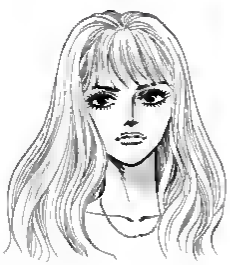



I MUST PERFORM TONIGHT NO MATTER WHAT.
I'LL BE FINE.
I SHOULD GET BETTER IF I REST UNTIL TONIGHT.


Welcome!
SAN PHARMACY
SAN PHARMACY

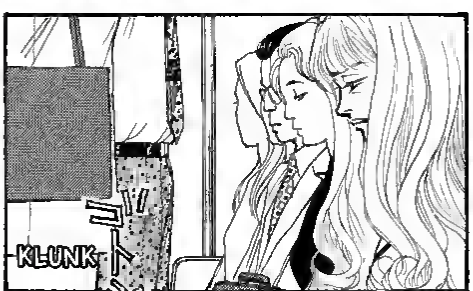



SLAM



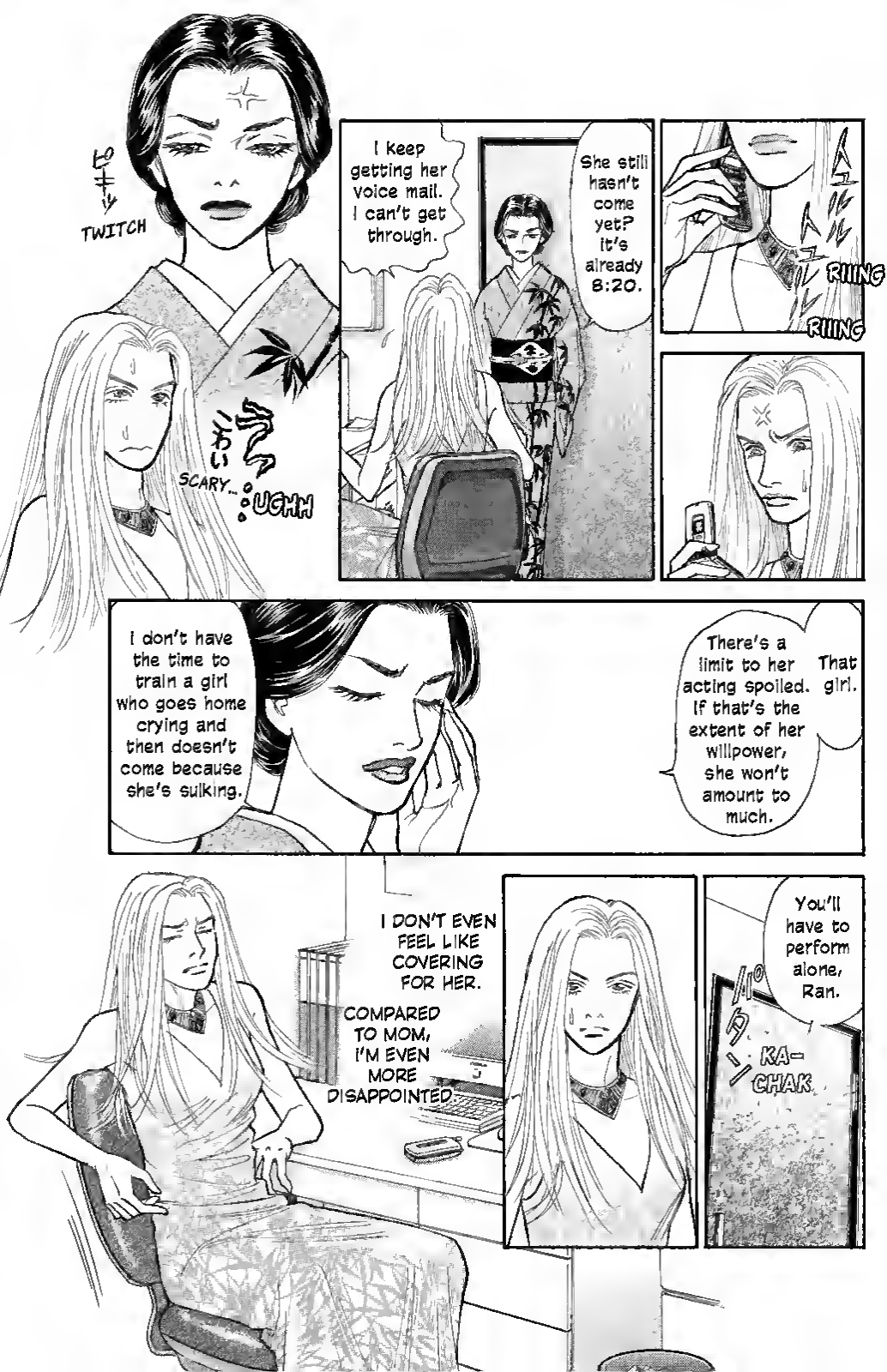
For fatigue, take this.
If you don't drive, this is the best for menstrual pain.

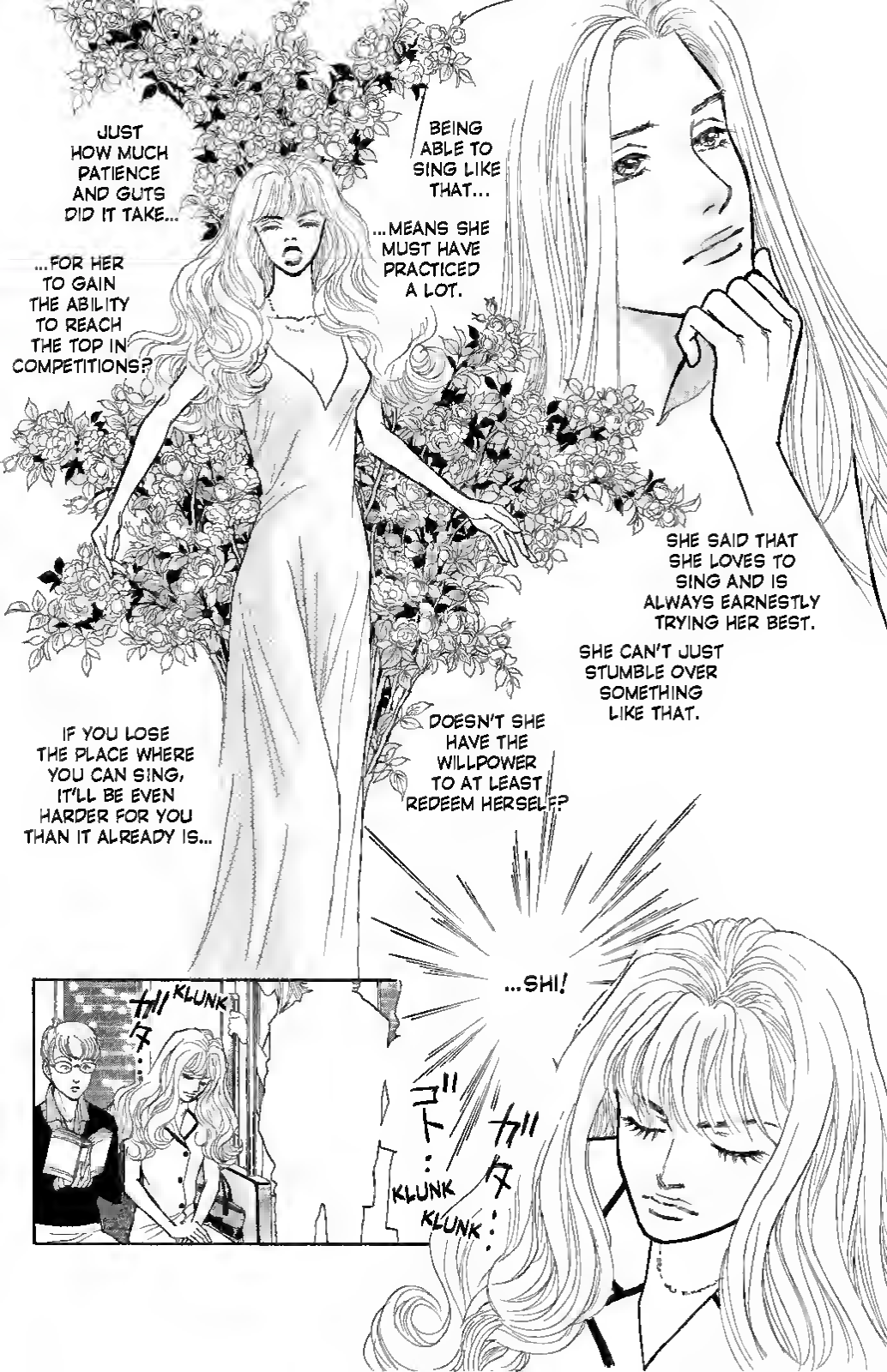
I AVOID TAKING MEDICATION UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY...
BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT NOW.
I HAVE TO GO NO MATTER WHAT.


KLUNK

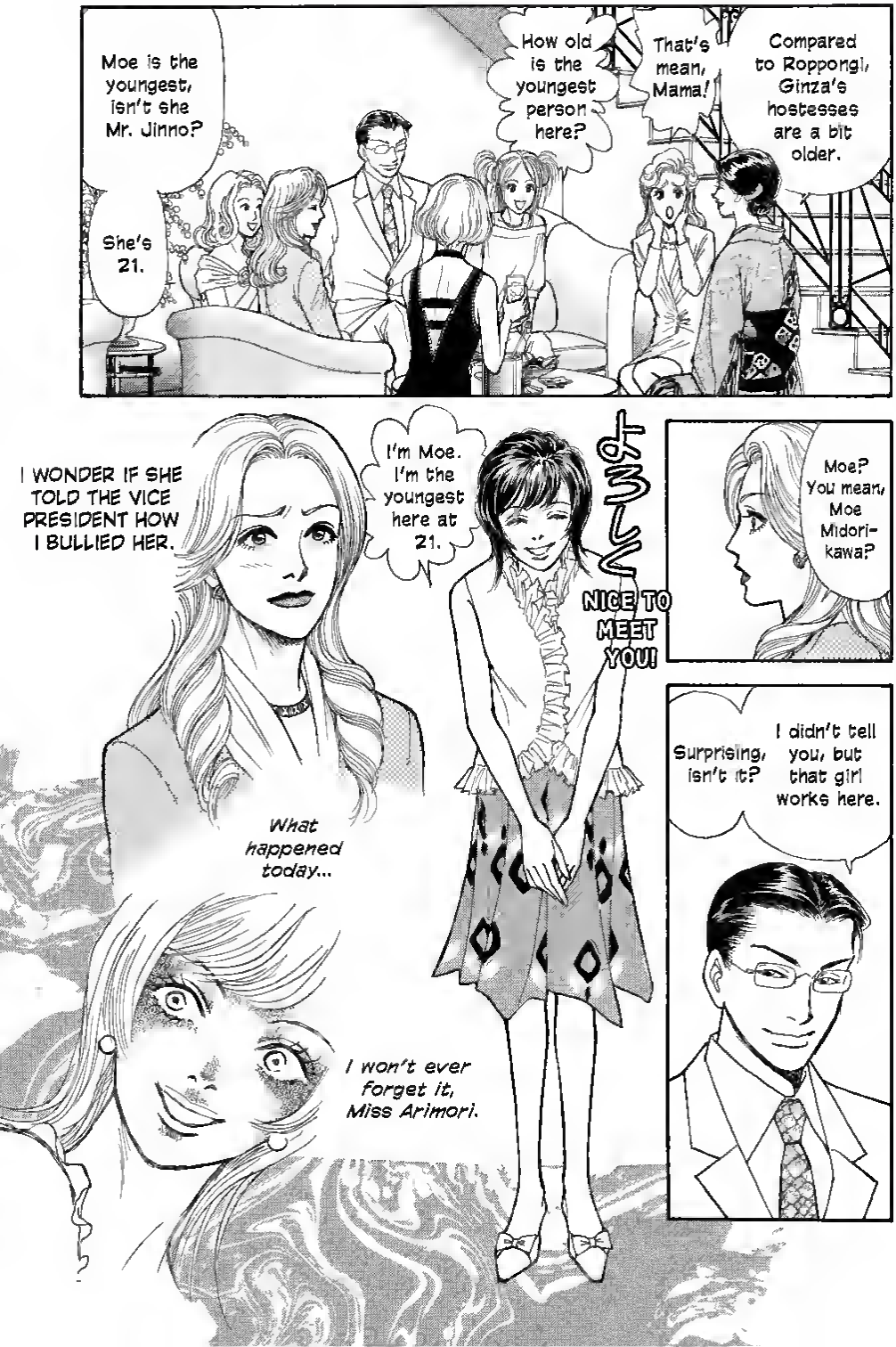
KLUNK
IT HURTS...
PLEASE LET ME GET WELL SOON.

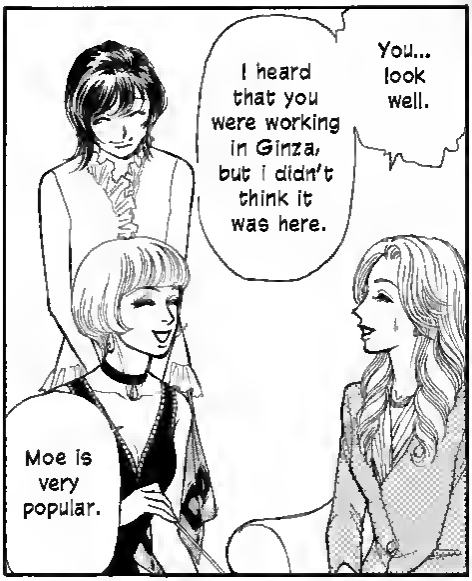
KLUNK
KLUNK
THANK GOODNESS...
THE PAIN IS SLOWLY SUBSIDING...
SIGH
It's been a while, Miss Arimori.
Oh, my. It's rare to see you come this early.
It's the idol, Emi Hara!
She looks so special on TV, but in person she looks like an ordinary girl.
Welcome!
I've only been here once before, but that's just like Mama to remember...
I wish you'd come to our secretarial training sessions.
WAHH
So this is a Ginza club!


TWITCH
SCARY...
UGHH
I keep getting her voice mail. I can't get through.
She still hasn't come yet? It's already 8:20.
RIIING
RIIING
I don't have the time to train a girl who goes home crying and then doesn't come because she's sulking.
There's a limit to her acting spoiled. If that's the extent of her willpower, she won't amount to much.
That girl.
I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE COVERING FOR HER.
COMPARED TO MOM, I'M EVEN MORE DISAPPOINTED.
You'll have to perform alone, Ran.
KA-CHAK


JUST HOW MUCH PATIENCE AND GUTS DID IT TAKE...
...FOR HER TO GAIN THE ABILITY TO REACH THE TOP IN COMPETITIONS?
BEING ABLE TO SING LIKE THAT...
...MEANS SHE MUST HAVE PRACTICED A LOT.
SHE SAID THAT SHE LOVES TO SING AND IS ALWAYS EARNESTLY TRYING HER BEST.
SHE CAN'T JUST STUMBLE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DOESN'T SHE HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO AT LEAST REDEEM HERSELF?
IF YOU LOSE THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SING, IT'LL BE EVEN HARDER FOR YOU THAN IT ALREADY IS...
KLUNK
...SHI!
KLUNK
KLUNK

PRIDE 2


Moe is the youngest, isn't she Mr. Jinno?
She's 21.
How old is the youngest person here?
That's mean, Mama!
Compared to Roppongi, Ginza's hostesses are a bit older.
I WONDER IF SHE TOLD THE VICE PRESIDENT HOW I BULLIED HER.
I'm Moe. I'm the youngest here at 21.
よろしく
NICE TO MEET YOU!
Moe? You mean, Moe Midorikawa?
What happened today...
I won't ever forget it, Miss Arimori.
Surprising, isn't it?
I didn't tell you, but that girl works here.

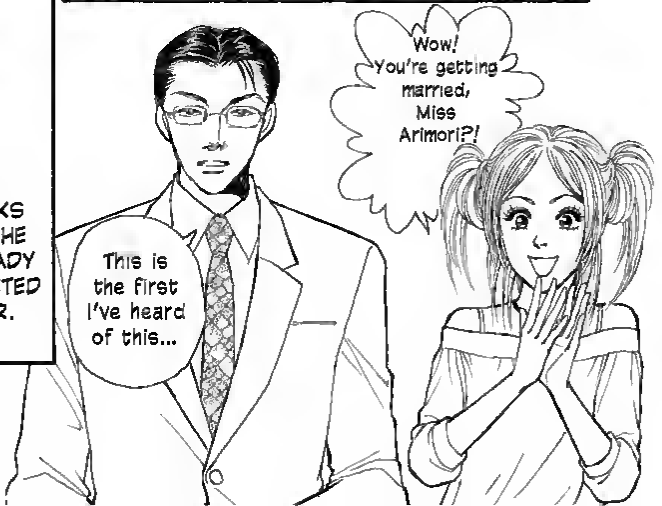

You... look well.
I heard that you were working in Ginza, but I didn't think it was here.
Moe is very popular.

It's been a while, Miss Arimori.
I'm sorry for causing you so much trouble that time.

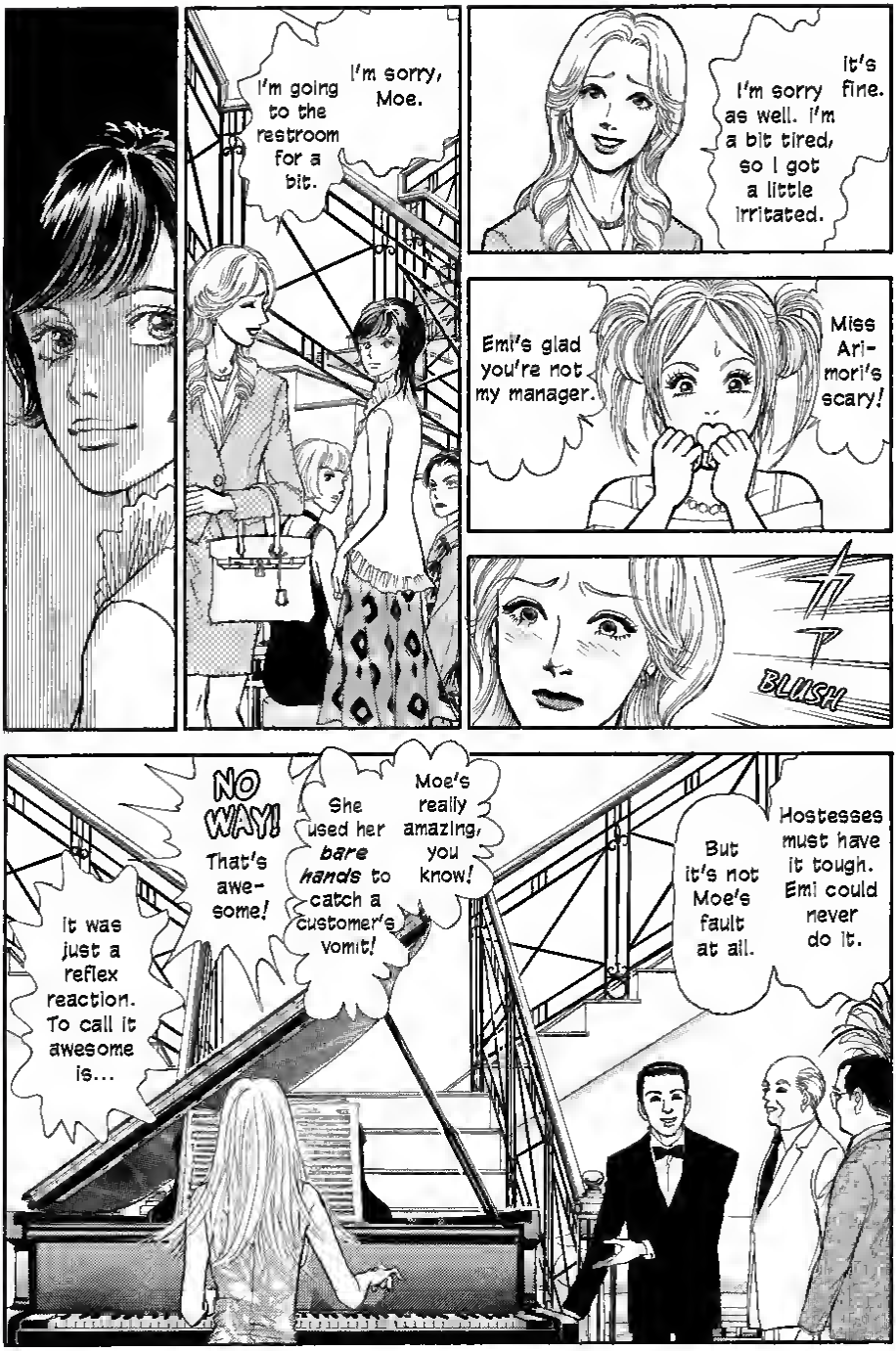
THAT WAS FAST, MR. FUNAKI.
I did go on an arranged marriage meeting, but...
Who said I was getting married?
LOOKS LIKE HE ALREADY REJECTED HER.

Mr. Funaki from Hoshino Pharmaceuticals was here yesterday.
I heard you were getting married. Congratulations.

What?


Wow! You're getting married, Miss Arimori?!
This is the first I've heard of this...

GEEZ...
HO HO
ホホ
ヤーね
You've been mis-informed, Moe.
Nothing's been decided yet.
What? But Mr. Funaki ordered a bottle of champagne to celebrate it.
GASP
I'm telling you, you're wrong!
Be quiet!
I didn't mean to talk about your private life. I just thought that it was such a happy occasion, so I...
Ah... Um...
I'm really sorry.
I really am very sorry.

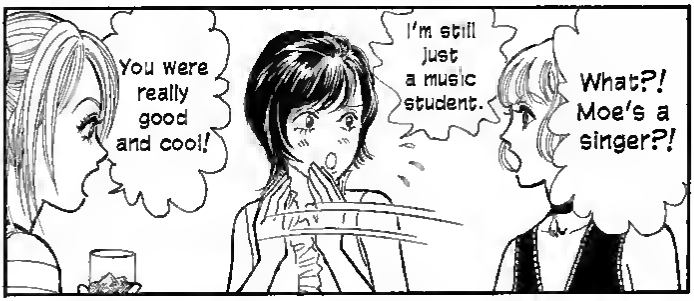

I'm sorry, Moe.
I'm going to the restroom for a bit.
It's fine.
I'm sorry as well. I'm a bit tired, so I got a little irritated.
Miss Arimori's scary!
Emi's glad you're not my manager.
BLUSH
Moe's really amazing, you know!
She used her bare hands to catch a customer's vomit!
NO WAY!
That's awesome!
It was just a reflex reaction. To call it awesome is...
But it's not Moe's fault at all.
Hostesses must have it tough. Emi could never do it.

PRIDE 2

TAKADANOBABA
高田馬場
OH, NO!
WHY AM I IN BABA?!
HUH?
Takada-nobaba! Takada-nobaba!
Those who wish to transfer to the Tozai line...
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?!
IT'S 8:45! IT'S PAST MY PERFORMANCE TIME!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?! I HAVE TO CALL MAMA!
Next is Shinjuku Station! Shinjuku Station!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT! I CAN'T BELIEVE I FELL ASLEEP AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
THE CHUO LINE IS FASTER, SO I'LL TRANSFER AT SHINJUKU...
SHOULD I TAKE A TAXI FROM TOKYO STATION? NO, IT'S BETTER TO GET ON THE YAMANOTE LINE.
I'm sorry! It's Shio! I'm at Shinjuku now!
Are you there shopping or something?

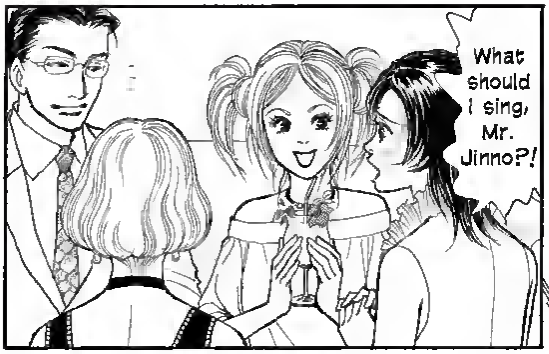
It's fine. Just go home and rest.
No! I'll be there!
I'll definitely make it there by the next performance time!
I'm sorry! I took some medicine for menstrual pains and fell asleep on the train!
I'm really sorry about this!
I SUPPOSE SHE HAS A BIT OF WILLPOWER AFTER ALL.
THAT YOUNG LADY ACTUALLY SHOUTED ABOUT MENSTRUAL PAINS IN A CROWD OF PEOPLE.
BEEP
The train's here, so please excuse me!

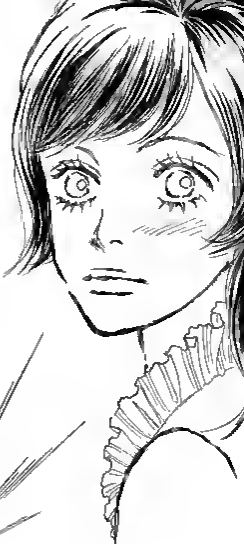
I saw a video of the contest while waiting in the lobby of Queen Record.
Weren't you the one who won the opera contest?
Huh? I thought you looked familiar.


You were really good and cool!
I'm still just a music student.
What?! Moe's a singer?!

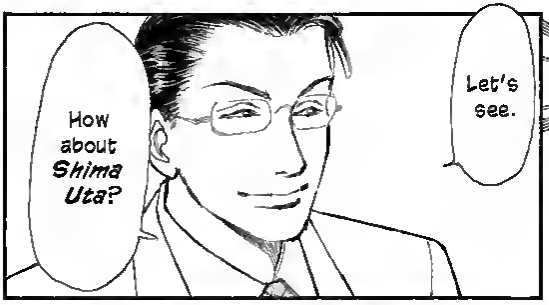
Hey, Mama! Is it OK if I ask her to sing?
Emi wants to hear you sing again!

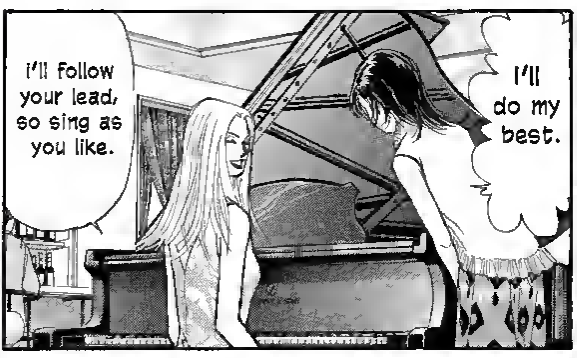
...I'll make a special exception and have Moe perform one song.
We don't allow karaoke here, but since our singer hasn't arrived yet...

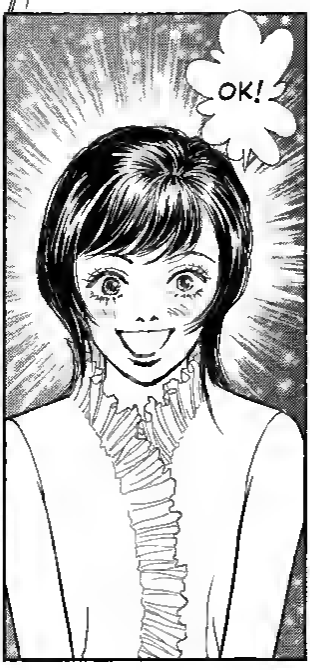

What should I sing, Mr. Jinno?!

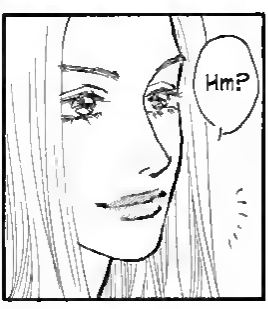


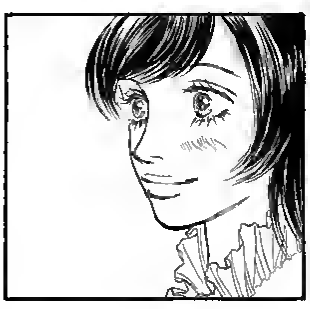
I CAN SING!

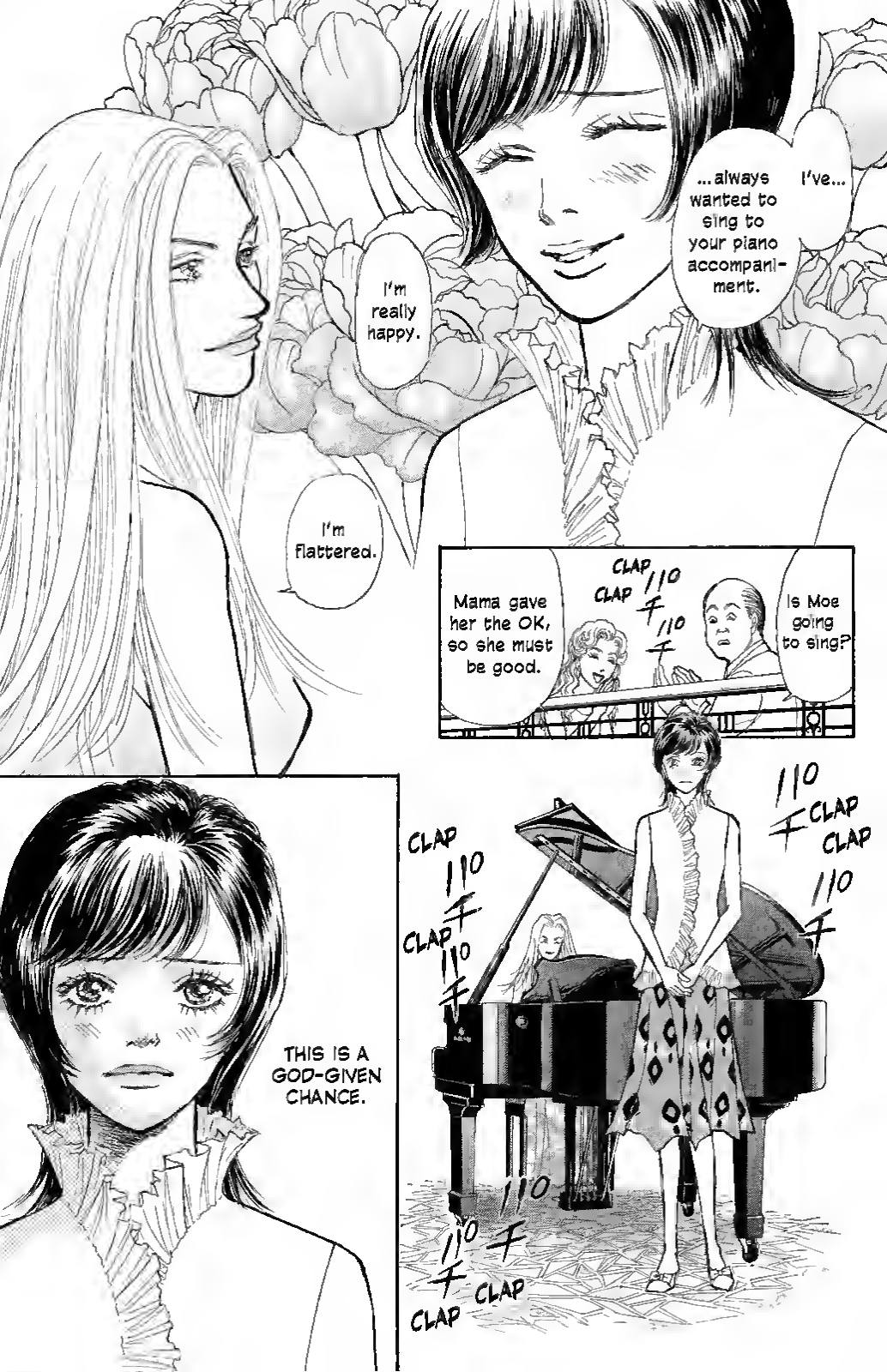

Let's see.
How about *Shima Uta*?

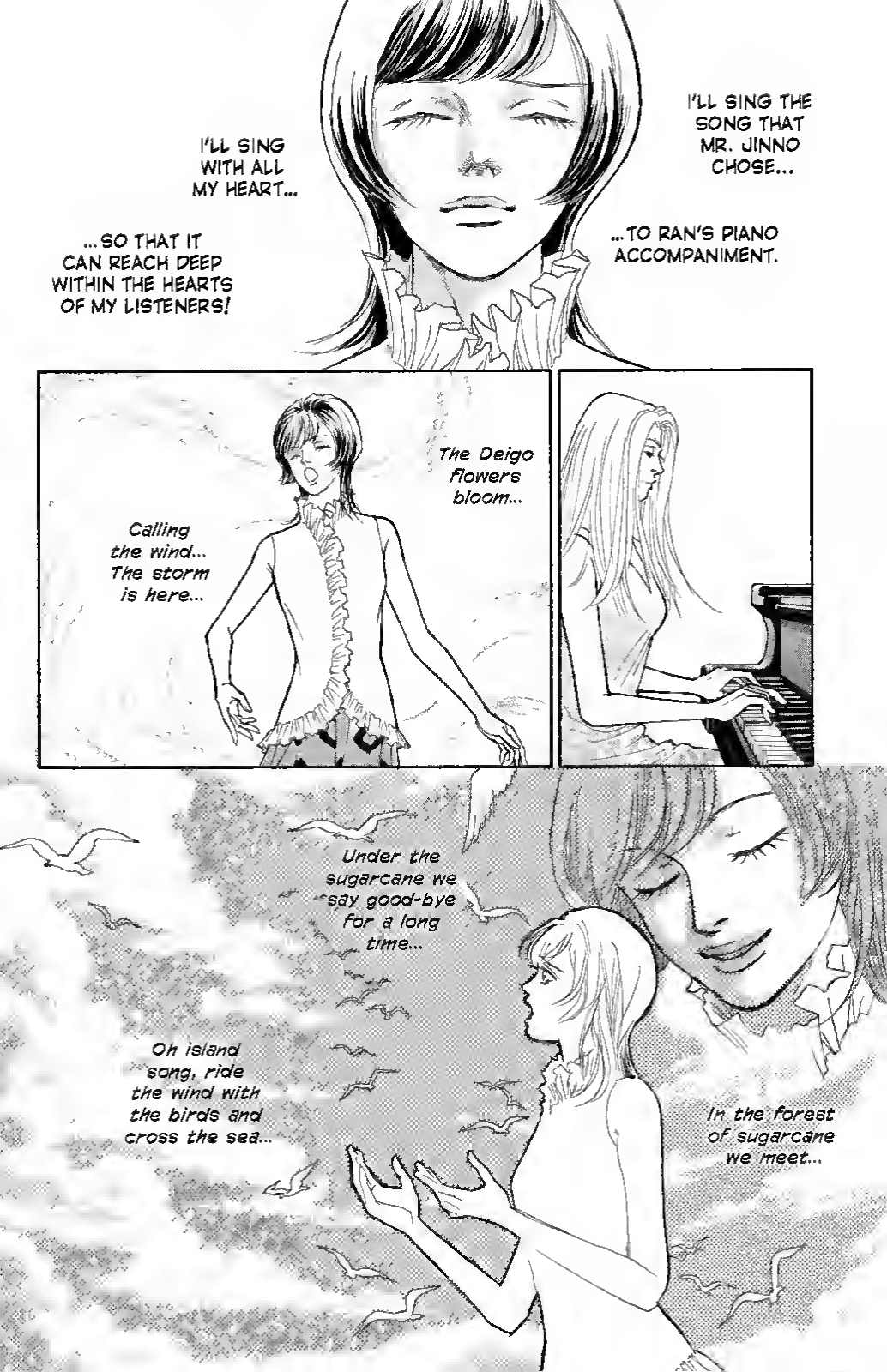

I'll do my best.
I'll follow your lead, so sing as you like.

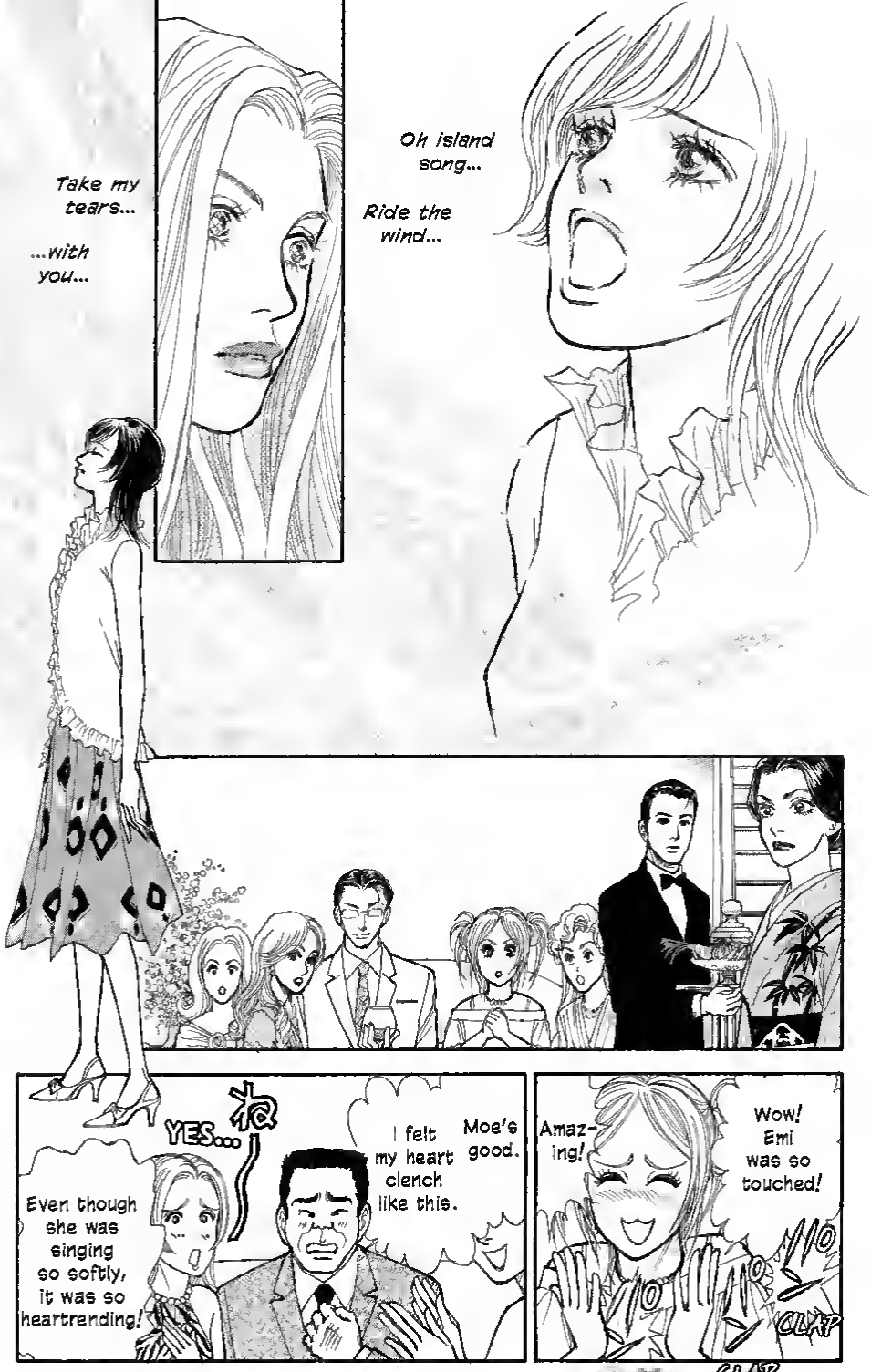

OK!

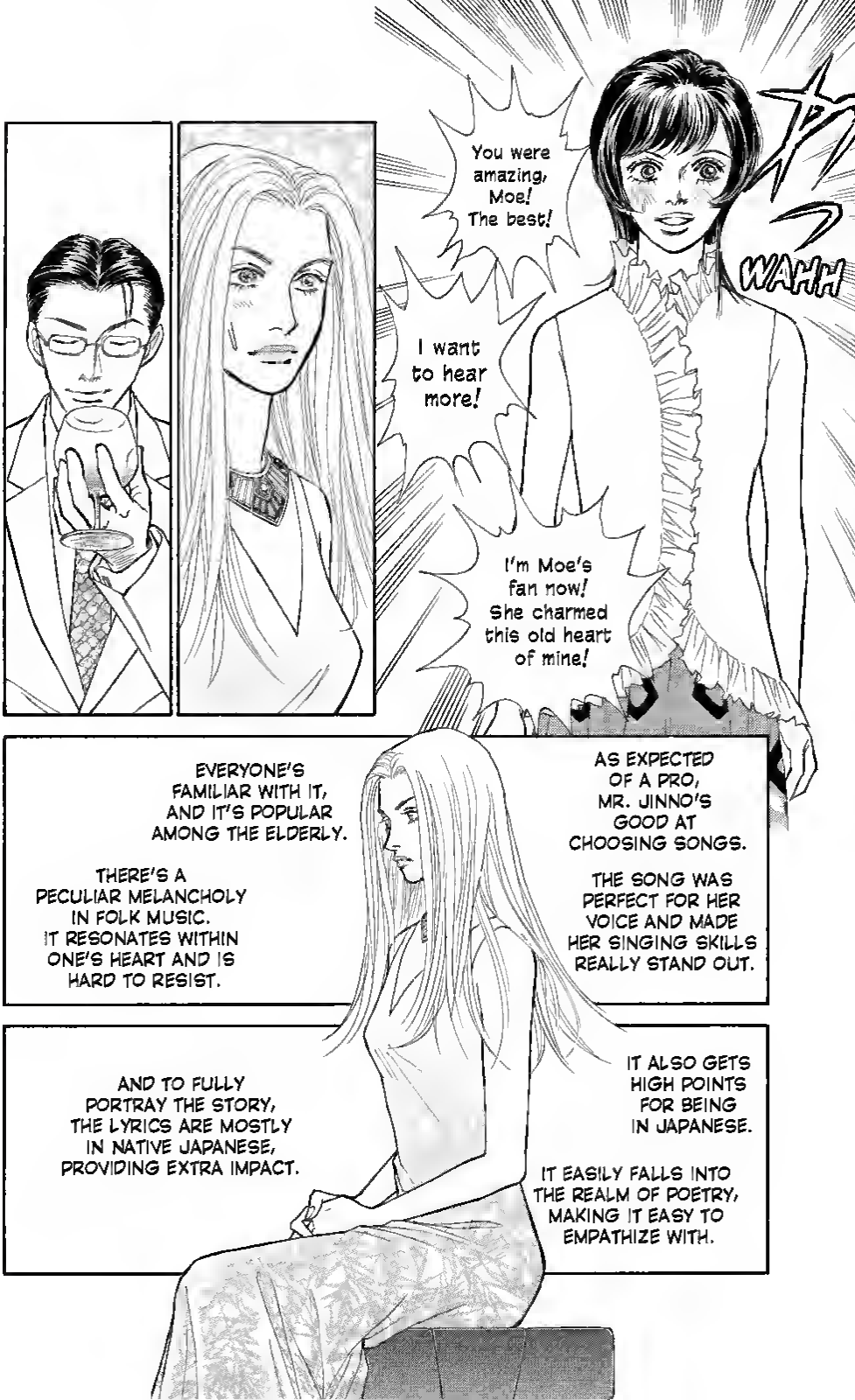

Hm?




I've...
...always wanted to sing to your piano accompaniment.
I'm really happy.
I'm flattered.
Mama gave her the OK, so she must be good.
CLAP CLAP 110 千 110 千
Is Moe going to sing?
THIS IS A GOD-GIVEN CHANCE.
CLAP 110 千 CLAP 110 千 CLAP
110 千 CLAP CLAP 110 千
110 千 110 千 CLAP CLAP

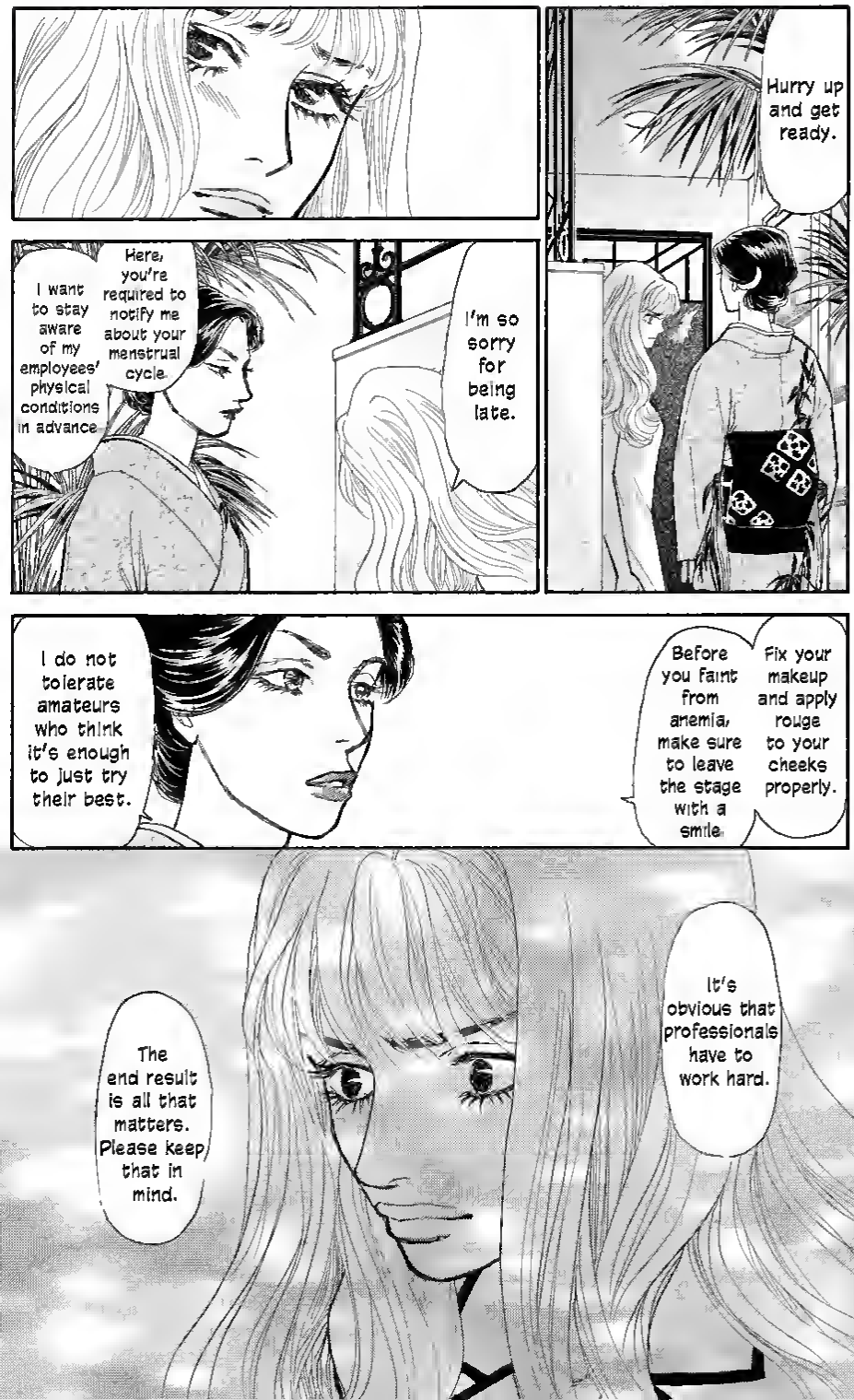

I'LL SING WITH ALL MY HEART...
I'LL SING THE SONG THAT MR. JINNO CHOSE...
...SO THAT IT CAN REACH DEEP WITHIN THE HEARTS OF MY LISTENERS!
...TO RAN'S PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT.
Calling the wind... The storm is here...
The Deigo flowers bloom...
Under the sugarcane we say good-bye for a long time...
Oh island song, ride the wind with the birds and cross the sea...
In the forest of sugarcane we meet...


Take my tears...
...with you...
Oh island song...
Ride the wind...
YES...
Even though she was singing so softly, it was so heartrending!
I felt my heart clench like this.
Moe's good.
Amaz-ing!
Wow! Emi was so touched!
CLAP
CLAP

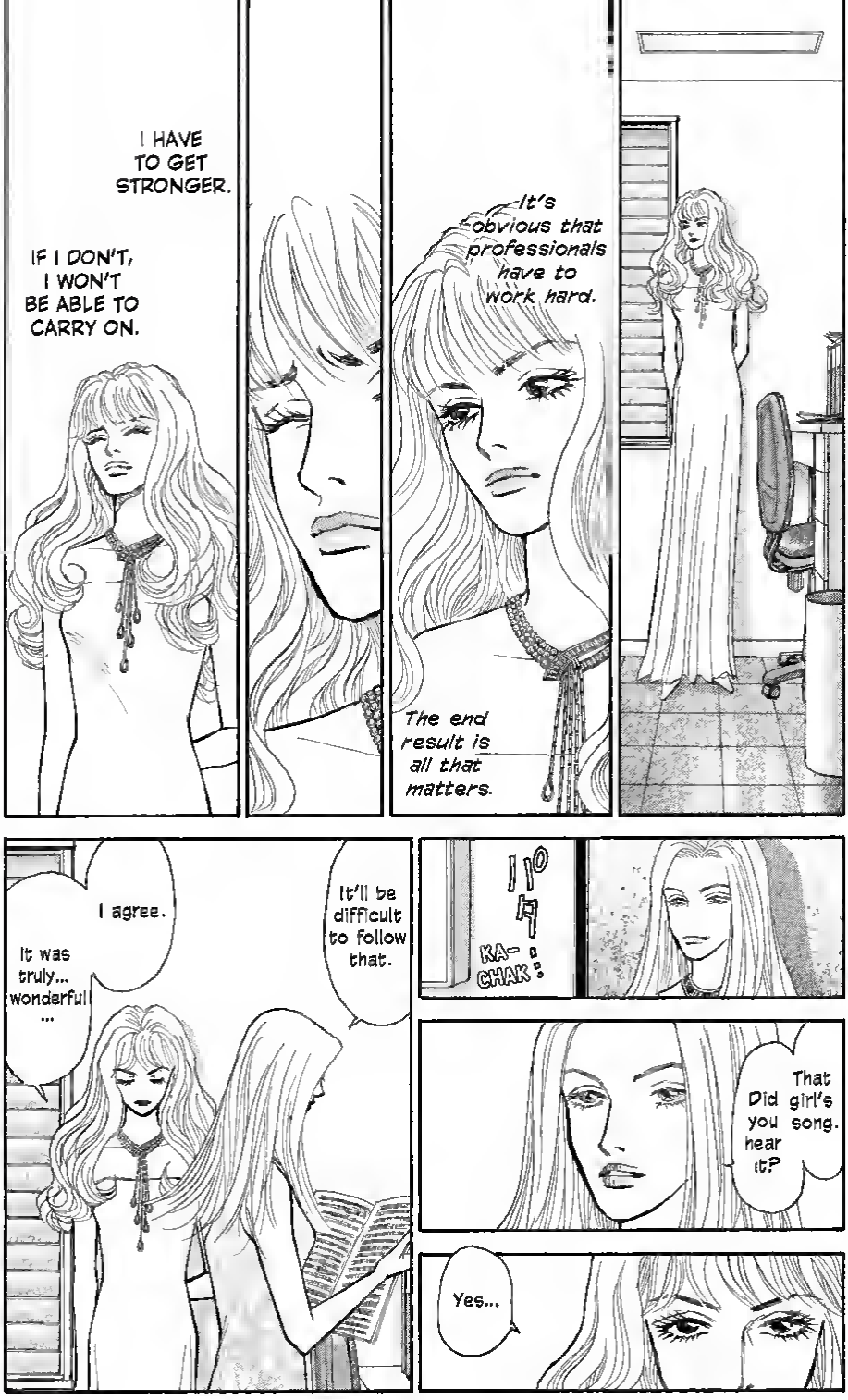

You were amazing, Moe! The best!
WAHH
I want to hear more!
I'm Moe's fan now! She charmed this old heart of mine!
EVERYONE'S FAMILIAR WITH IT, AND IT'S POPULAR AMONG THE ELDERLY.
THERE'S A PECULIAR MELANCHOLY IN FOLK MUSIC. IT RESONATES WITHIN ONE'S HEART AND IS HARD TO RESIST.
AS EXPECTED OF A PRO, MR. JINNO'S GOOD AT CHOOSING SONGS.
THE SONG WAS PERFECT FOR HER VOICE AND MADE HER SINGING SKILLS REALLY STAND OUT.
AND TO FULLY PORTRAY THE STORY, THE LYRICS ARE MOSTLY IN NATIVE JAPANESE, PROVIDING EXTRA IMPACT.
IT ALSO GETS HIGH POINTS FOR BEING IN JAPANESE.
IT EASILY FALLS INTO THE REALM OF POETRY, MAKING IT EASY TO EMPATHIZE WITH.

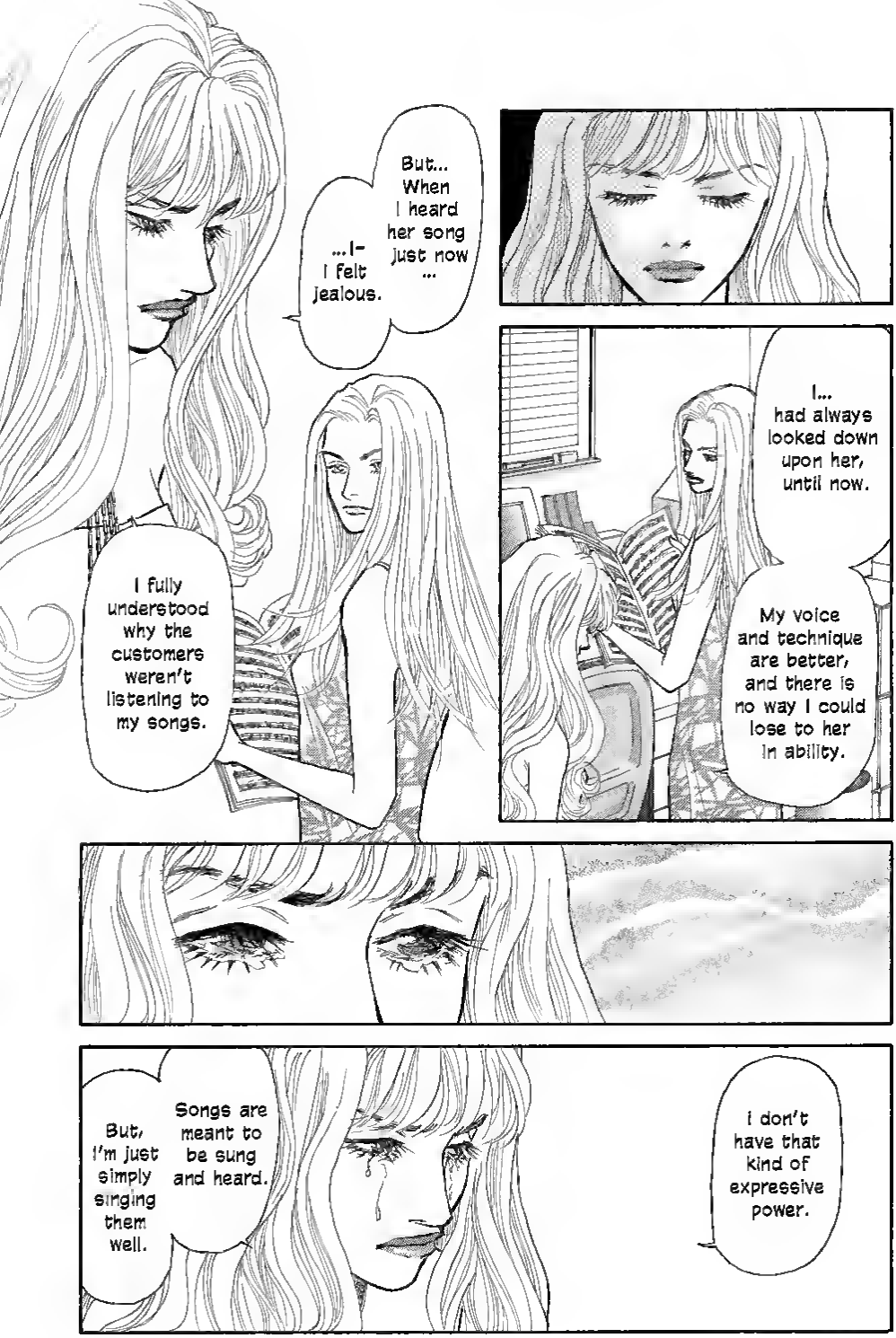
PRIDE 2

SHE PROBABLY REALIZES THIS HERSELF.
...SHE'S DEFINITELY MORE SUITED FOR THIS TYPE OF SONG THAN OPERA.
EVEN IF I TOOK AWAY THOSE POINTS...
It was very good, Moe.
OK, now That's one song, as promised.
110 千 CLAP
110 千 CLAP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
Thank you very much!

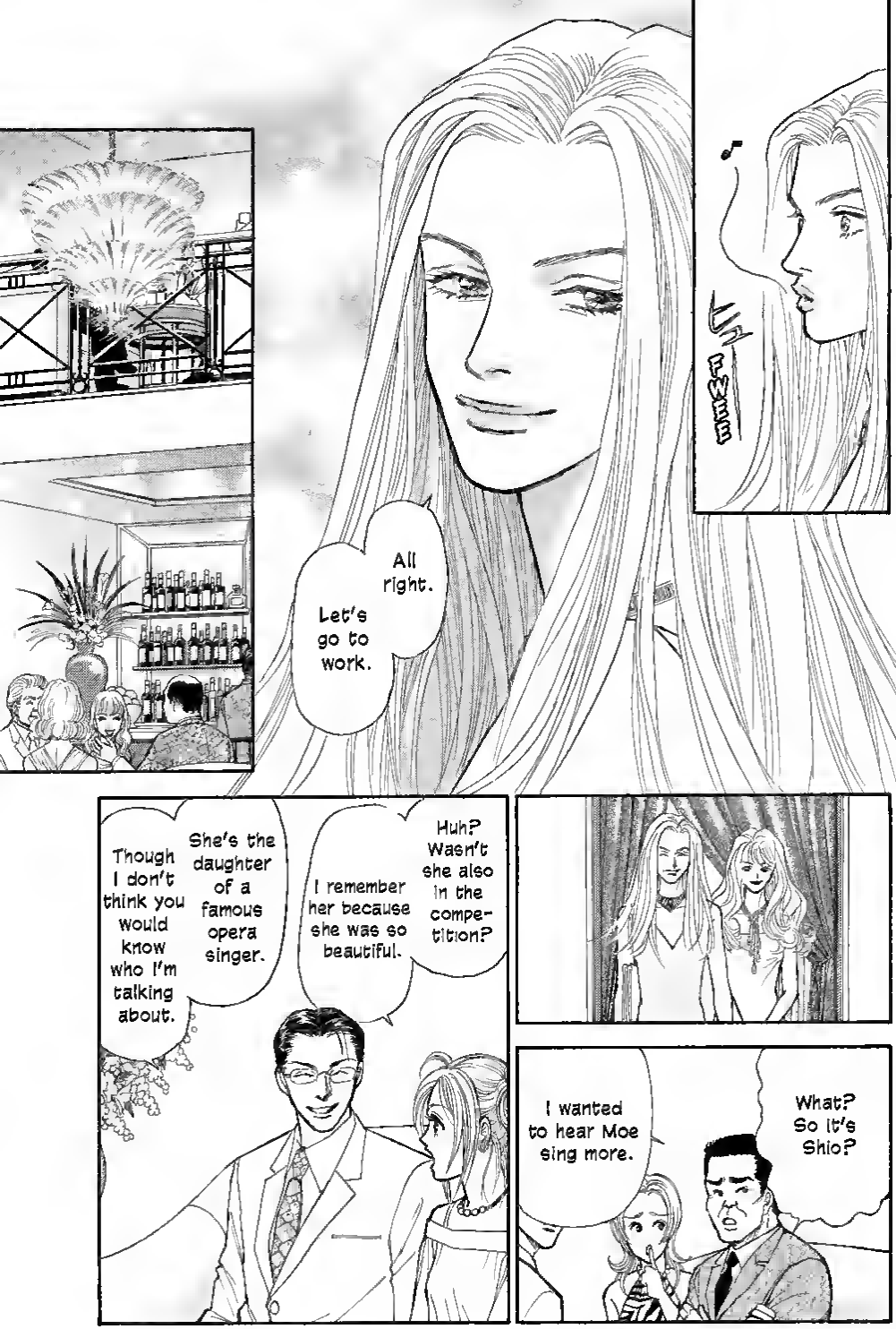

Hurry up and get ready.
I'm so sorry for being late.
Here, you're required to notify me about your menstrual cycle.
I want to stay aware of my employees' physical conditions in advance.
Fix your makeup and apply rouge to your cheeks properly.
Before you faint from anemia, make sure to leave the stage with a smile.
I do not tolerate amateurs who think it's enough to just try their best.
It's obvious that professionals have to work hard.
The end result is all that matters. Please keep that in mind.

You were amazing, Moe! The best!
I want to hear more!
THOSE WORDS...
...WERE THE WORDS I WANTED TO HEAR THE MOST.
KA-CHAK
カチャ
Emi was so touched!
Moe's good.
I felt my heart clench like this.
Even though she was singing so softly, it was so heartrending.

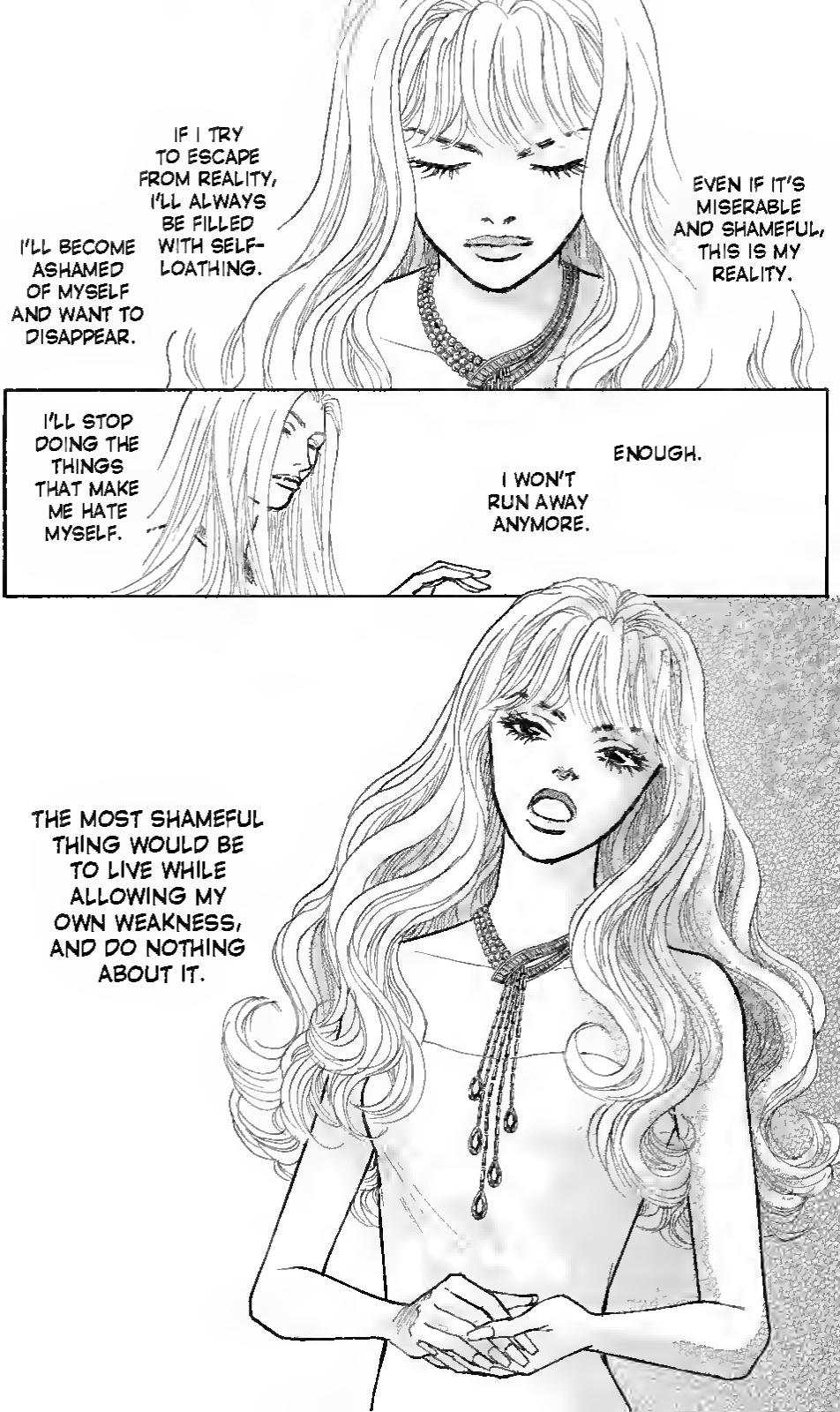

I HAVE TO GET STRONGER.
IF I DON'T, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY ON.
It's obvious that professionals have to work hard.
The end result is all that matters.
I agree.
It was truly... wonderful...
It'll be difficult to follow that.
KA-CHAK
That girl's song. Did you hear it?
Yes...

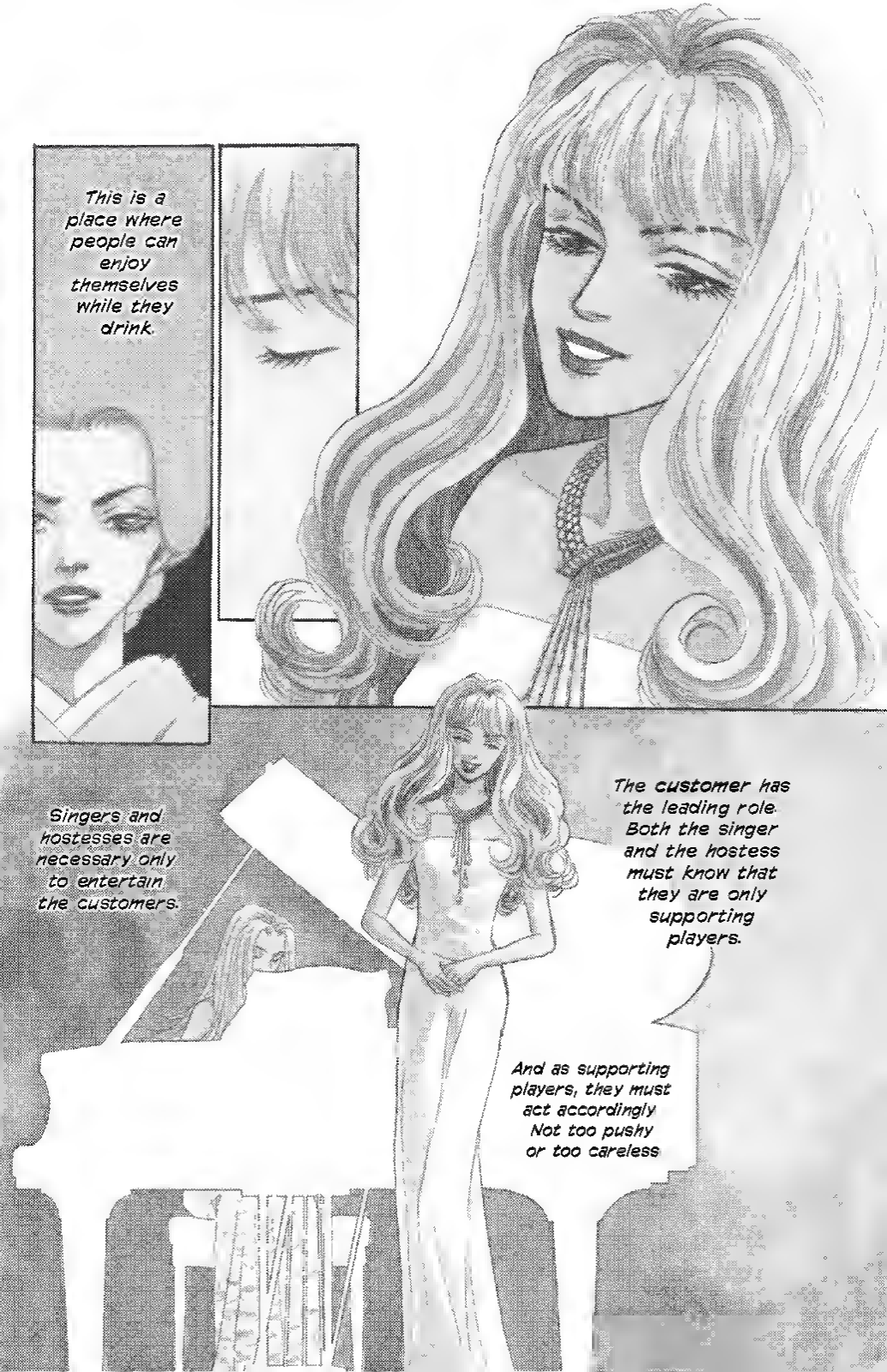

But... When I heard her song just now ...
...I- I felt jealous.
I fully understood why the customers weren't listening to my songs.
I... had always looked down upon her, until now.
My voice and technique are better, and there is no way I could lose to her in ability.
I don't have that kind of expressive power.
Songs are meant to be sung and heard.
But, I'm just simply singing them well.

My songs don't reach the hearts of my listeners.
They lack the most important thing, the ability to deeply move people.
Will you fix your ...and makeup sing? ...
Or, will you go home?
I'll sing.
I... am the singer of *Prima Donna*.


Fuuu
All right.
Let's go to work.
Huh? Wasn't she also in the competition?
I remember her because she was so beautiful.
She's the daughter of a famous opera singer.
Though I don't think you would know who I'm talking about.
What? So it's Shio?
I wanted to hear Moe sing more.

She's good too, but if I wanted to hear a song, I'd prefer it to be in Japanese.
I know what you mean. I have all of Hibari Misora's albums.
I BET IT'S HARD FOR HER TO SING.
EVERYONE WANTS TO HEAR ME SING.
What's that?
Oh! I like them, too!
あ〜好きも
Kick the Can Crew is the name of a rap group.
I listen to Kick the Can Crew.
I listen to jazz and stuff here, but at home I listen to SMAP.
OH, MY. NO ONE IS HOLDING BACK.
WILL THAT YOUNG MISS BE ABLE TO SING WITH THIS CROWD?
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK OUT, THEN I CAN'T USE HER ANYMORE.


IF I TRY TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY, I'LL ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH SELF-LOATHING.
I'LL BECOME ASHAMED OF MYSELF AND WANT TO DISAPPEAR.
EVEN IF IT'S MISERABLE AND SHAMEFUL, THIS IS MY REALITY.
I'LL STOP DOING THE THINGS THAT MAKE ME HATE MYSELF.
ENOUGH.
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
THE MOST SHAMEFUL THING WOULD BE TO LIVE WHILE ALLOWING MY OWN WEAKNESS, AND DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.


This is a place where people can enjoy themselves while they drink.
Singers and hostesses are necessary only to entertain the customers.
The customer has the leading role. Both the singer and the hostess must know that they are only supporting players.
And as supporting players, they must act accordingly. Not too pushy or too careless.

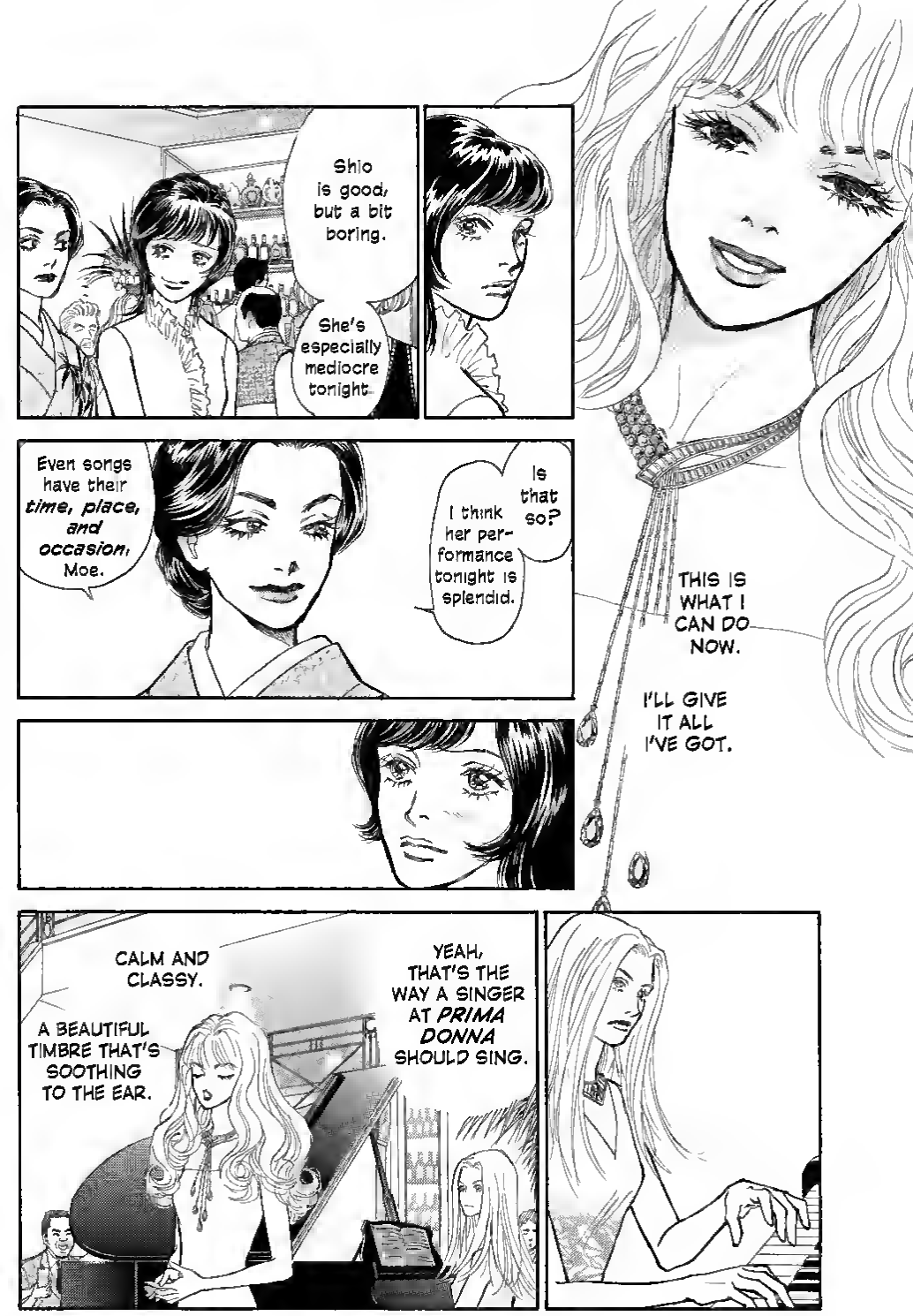
PRIDE 2

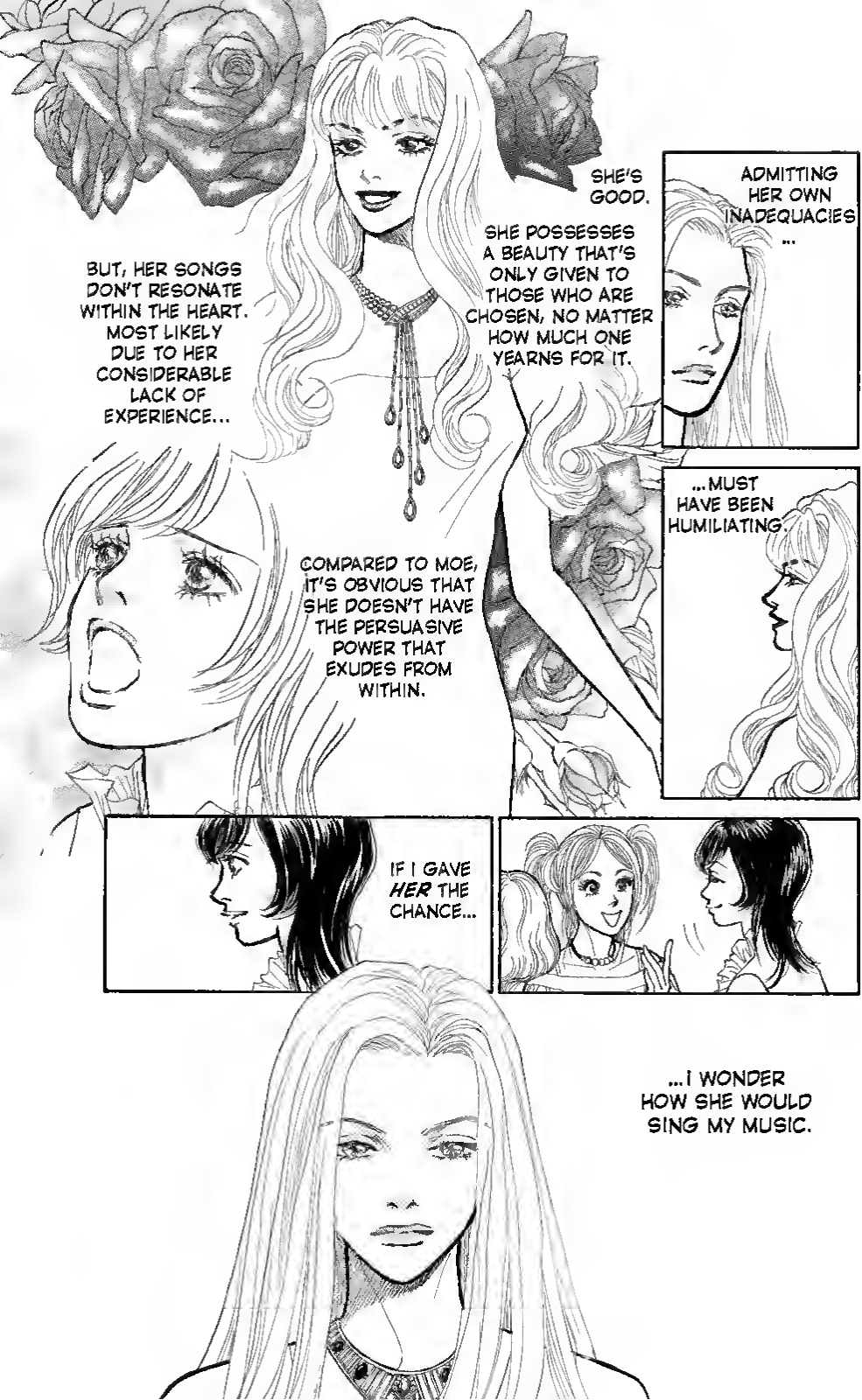
She's an unattainable flower, just like Mama.
Characteristic of the allure of *Ginza*.
As I knew she'd be, Shio's beautiful.
It makes me feel like expensive liquor is on the way.
OHHH
How nostalgic.
Hibari Misora also sang jazz. Did you know?
Hibari sang jazz?
Hey, now! Give me a break.
Mama's kimonos look really expensive!
Oh, dear. I'm cheap, you know.
All you need to do is give me two or three kimonos.

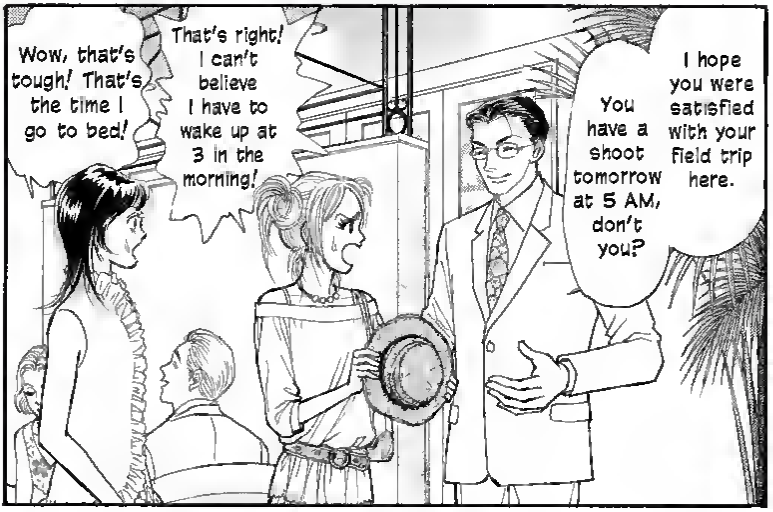
SMILE
Gorgeous! She gives off a very mature air.
Oh...! She fits Emi's image of a singer at a high-class club in Ginza.
You don't often see such elegant and sexy Japanese people.
If Emi were a man, I'd want to be a man who could walk with a woman like that.
We'd go to parties together and I'd show her off!
That's every man's dream, right Mr. Jinno?
I wouldn't say every man, but there are those...
...who would agree.
Whoa! What a charmer!
Emi wants to see Mr. Jinno's girlfriend!
She'll definitely be a beauty!
I'm someone who often wants to do that kind of thing.
That's why I'm drinking here with you, Emi.

PRIDE 2

AT SCHOOL, DURING COMPET!-TIONS...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD STAY THAT WAY.
AHA HA
THE CUSTOMER HAS THE LEADING ROLE.
I UNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE MEANT, BUT I ALWAYS TRIED TO TAKE THE LEADING ROLE FOR MYSELF.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A GIVEN THAT PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN TO ME SING.
I'M ALWAYS SINGING FOR YOU.
MY ROLE IN THIS PLACE IS TO MAKE THE CUSTOMERS HAPPY.
THEY WOULD SUDDENLY LISTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS.
SO THAT YOUR FATIGUE FROM TODAY CAN BE EASED AWAY...
SO THAT YOU'LL BE REVITALIZED FOR TOMORROW.
SO THAT THIS PLACE CAN BECOME A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN REST...

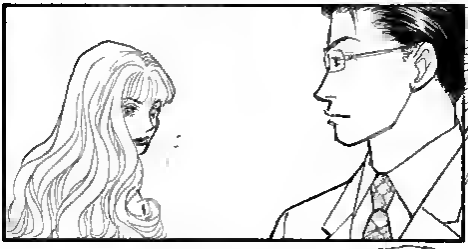

Shio is good, but a bit boring.
She's especially mediocre tonight.
Even songs have their *time, place, and occasion,* Moe.
I think her performance tonight is splendid.
Is that so?
THIS IS WHAT I CAN DO NOW.
I'LL GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT.
CALM AND CLASSY.
A BEAUTIFUL TIMBRE THAT'S SOOTHING TO THE EAR.
YEAH, THAT'S THE WAY A SINGER AT *PRIMA DONNA* SHOULD SING.

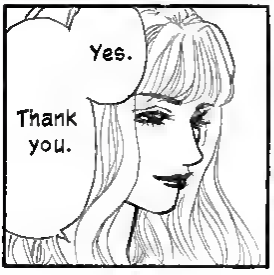

SHE'S GOOD.
SHE POSSESSES A BEAUTY THAT'S ONLY GIVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH ONE YEARNS FOR IT.
BUT, HER SONGS DON'T RESONATE WITHIN THE HEART. MOST LIKELY DUE TO HER CONSIDERABLE LACK OF EXPERIENCE...
ADMITTING HER OWN INADEQUACIES ...
...MUST HAVE BEEN HUMILIATING.
COMPARED TO MOE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE PERSUASIVE POWER THAT EXUDES FROM WITHIN.
IF I GAVE *HER* THE CHANCE...
...I WONDER HOW SHE WOULD SING MY MUSIC.


Wow, that's tough! That's the time I go to bed!
That's right! I can't believe I have to wake up at 3 in the morning!
You have a shoot tomorrow at 5 AM, don't you?
I hope you were satisfied with your field trip here.

110
110 7
7 CLAP
CLAP
110
7
CLAP
110
7
CLAP

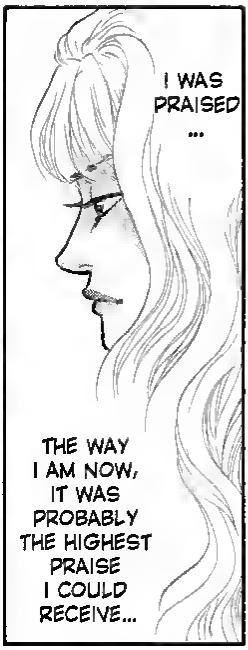
Please continue that mood throughout the next performance.
The atmosphere has improved considerably.

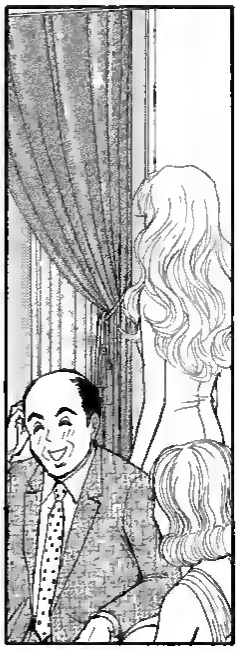


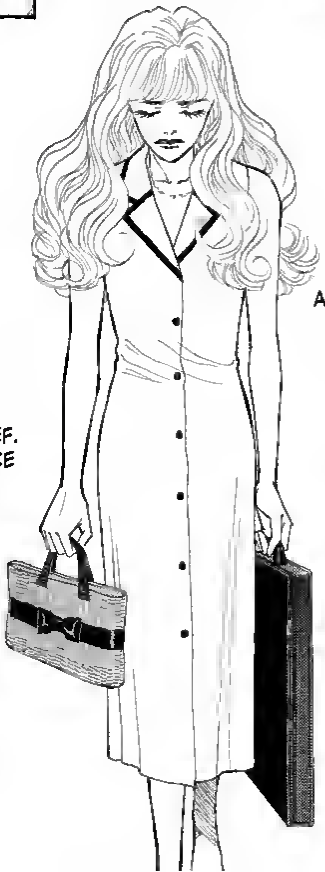

Yes.
Thank you.

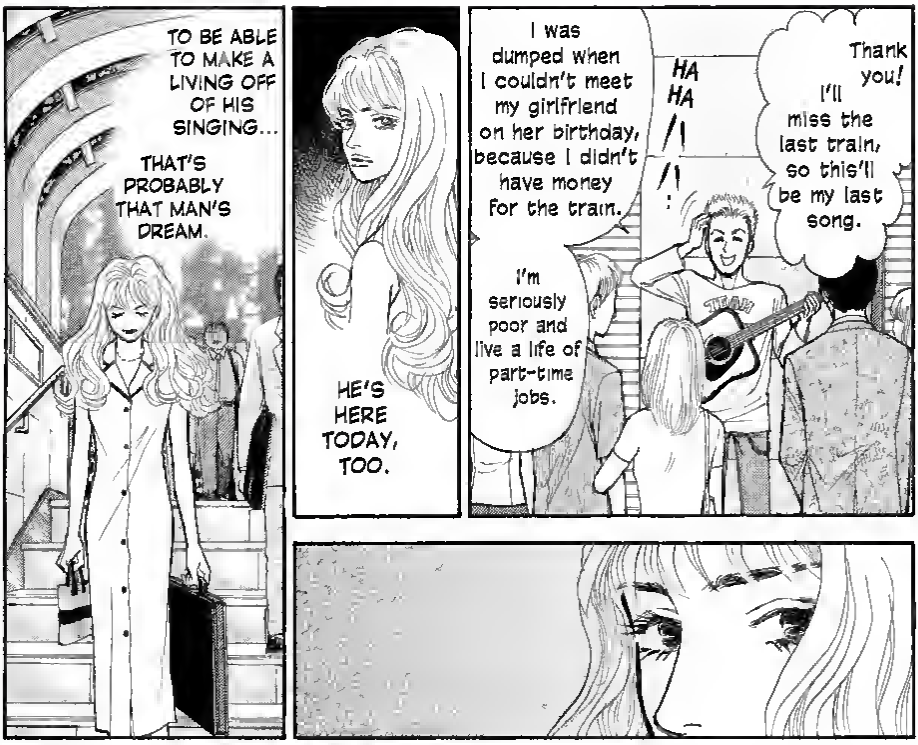
There's no singer more suited for *Prima Donna* than you.
I heard the song of a professional.

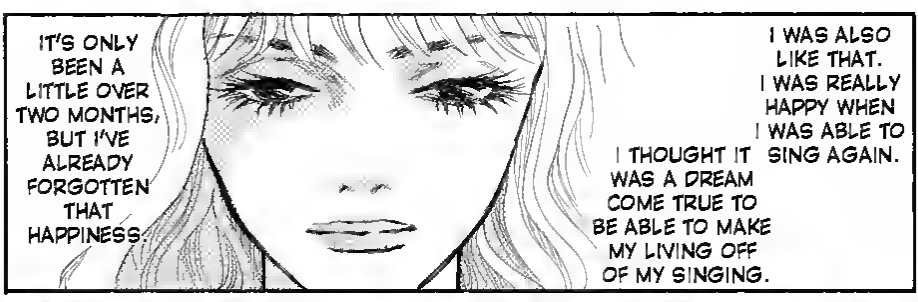
KORYO
PRIMA DO
PRIMA DO
CLUB kik
GINZA YA


I WAS PRAISED ...
THE WAY I AM NOW, IT WAS PROBABLY THE HIGHEST PRAISE I COULD RECEIVE...

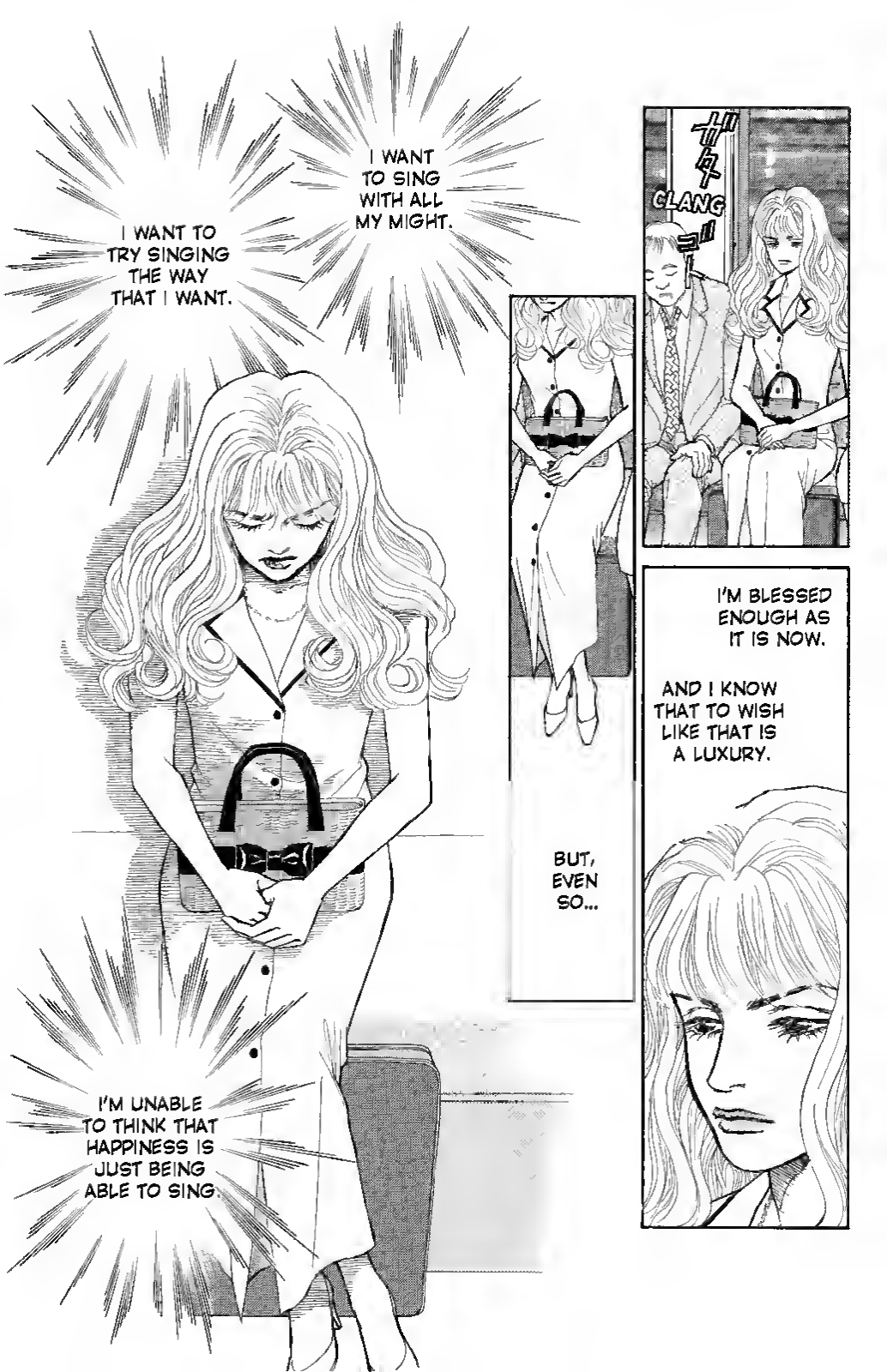



I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD INTO WHAT I DID...
...AND WAS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR IT, BUT...
...I ONLY FELT RELIEF. I COULDN'T REJOICE FROM MY HEART.

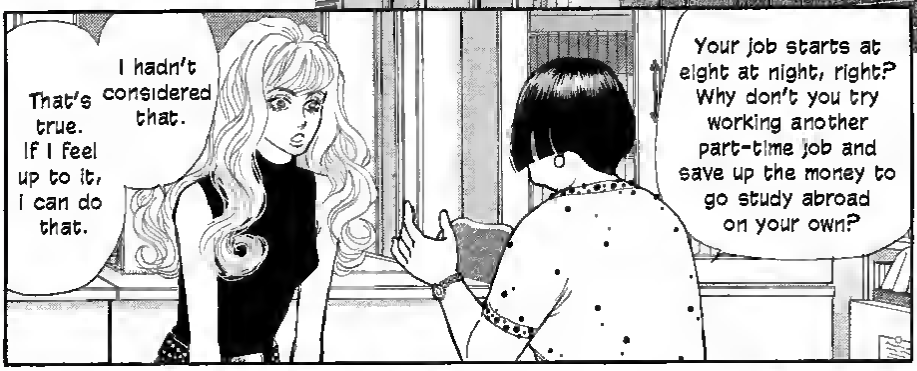

TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING OFF OF HIS SINGING...
THAT'S PROBABLY THAT MAN'S DREAM.
HE'S HERE TODAY, TOO.
I was dumped when I couldn't meet my girlfriend on her birthday, because I didn't have money for the train.
I'm seriously poor and live a life of part-time jobs.
HA HA
Thank you!
I'll miss the last train, so this'll be my last song.


IT'S ONLY BEEN A LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS, BUT I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THAT HAPPINESS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE MY LIVING OFF OF MY SINGING.
I WAS ALSO LIKE THAT. I WAS REALLY HAPPY WHEN I WAS ABLE TO SING AGAIN.

SONGS THAT DON'T DEMAND ATTENTION AND GIVE OFF A GOOD FEELING.
...AND SOUND LIKE BACKGROUND MUSIC SO AS NOT TO DISTURB THE CUSTOMERS' CONVERSATIONS.
SONGS THAT LIVEN UP DRINKING PARTIES...
EVEN I KNOW WHAT THOSE WORDS MEANT.
THERE'S NO SINGER MORE SUITED FOR *PRIMA DONNA* THAN YOU.

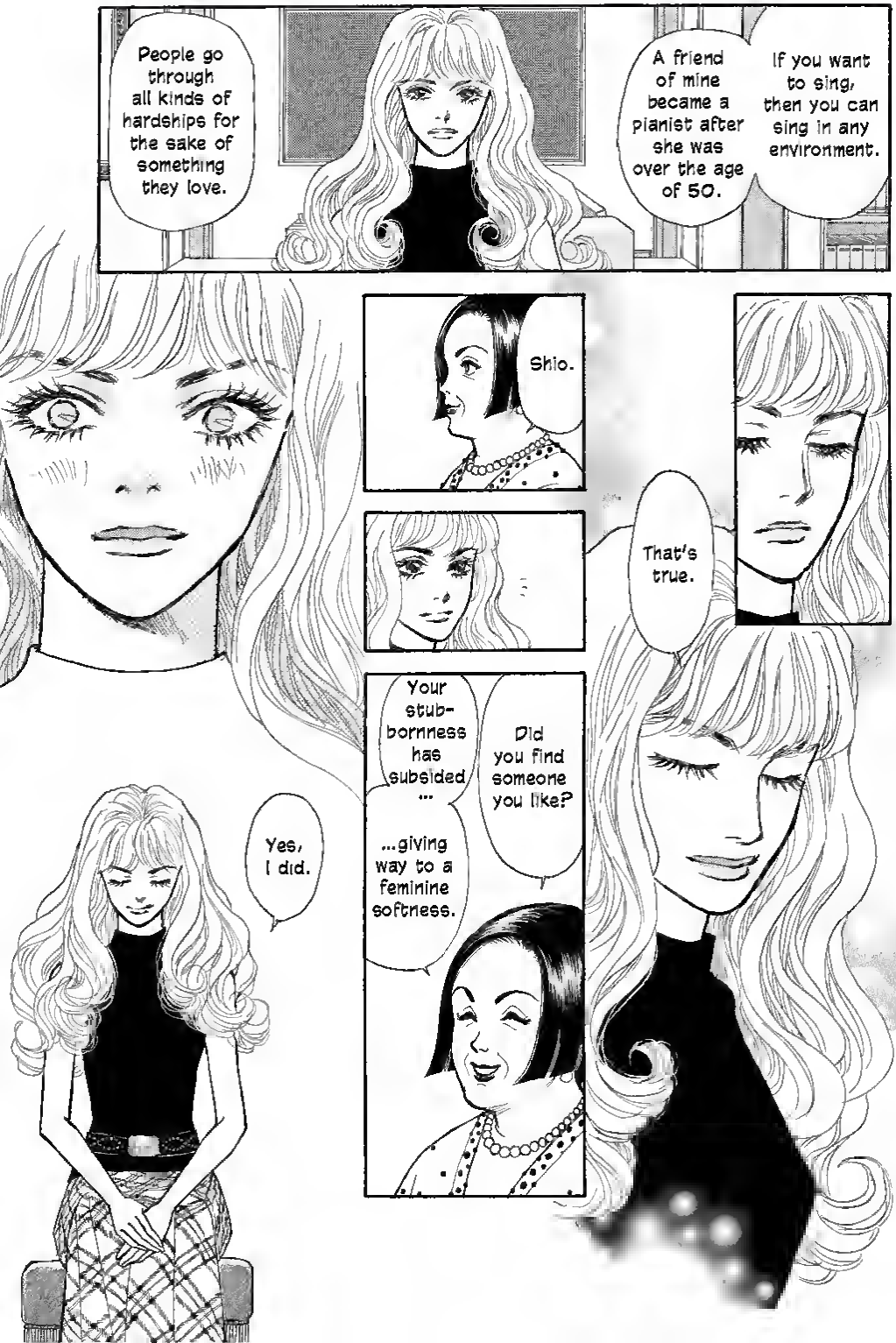

I WANT TO SING WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
I WANT TO TRY SINGING THE WAY THAT I WANT.
I'M UNABLE TO THINK THAT HAPPINESS IS JUST BEING ABLE TO SING.
CLANG
BUT, EVEN SO...
I'M BLESSED ENOUGH AS IT IS NOW.
AND I KNOW THAT TO WISH LIKE THAT IS A LUXURY.

There are also opera clubs.
...then I can put you in one of the choral groups.
Let's see, if you just want to sing...
YAMAMO OFFIC
三田音楽大学
MITA MUSIC COLLEGE
SINCE 1948


That's true. If I feel up to it, I can do that.
I hadn't considered that.
Your job starts at eight at night, right? Why don't you try working another part-time job and save up the money to go study abroad on your own?

I'm glad that we met. You've pulled yourself together nicely.
Especially in regards to your relation-ships with others.
I was worried whether or not a young lady such as yourself was doing all right.

You've changed in the short time we haven't seen each other.


People go through all kinds of hardships for the sake of something they love.
A friend of mine became a pianist after she was over the age of 50.
If you want to sing, then you can sing in any environment.
Shio.
That's true.
Your stubbornness has subsided...
...giving way to a feminine softness.
Did you find someone you like?
Yes, I did.

WHETHER IT'S LIKE...

...OR LOVE...

...I'M STILL NOT SURE WHICH IT IS.

AMAZING. SHE WAS ABLE TO SENSE THAT BY LOOKING AT ME.

Did you find someone you like?

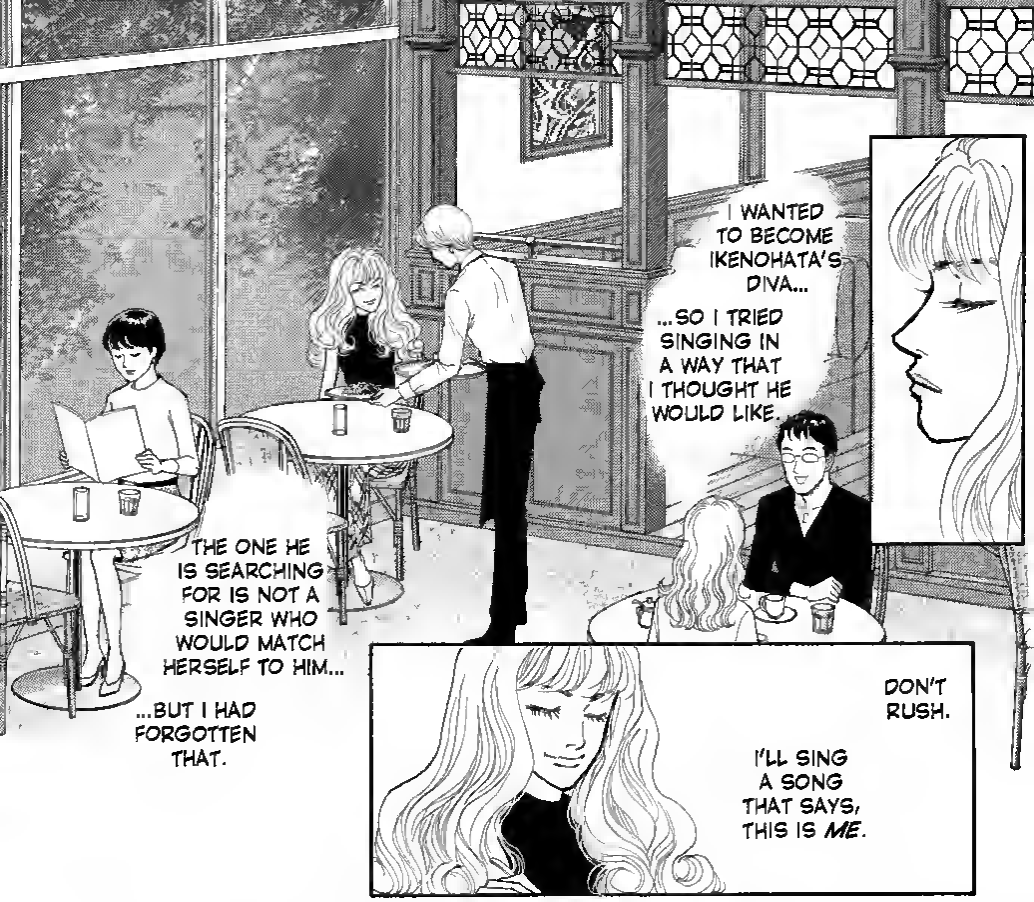
MY LOVE SONGS ARE SUNG USING ONLY MY IMAGINATION, AS I HAD NEVER YEARNED FOR LOVE.

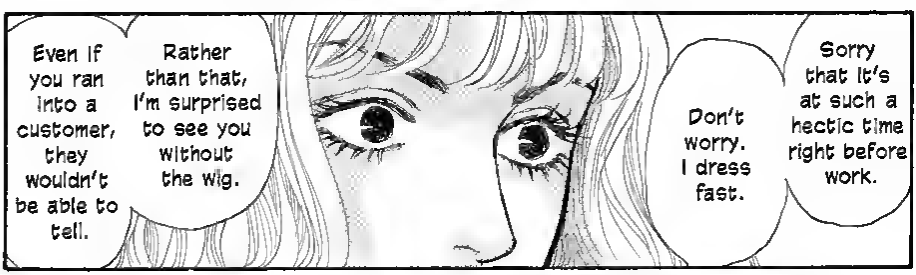
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SUCH SONGS WOULD NEVER REACH THE HEARTS OF MY LISTENERS.

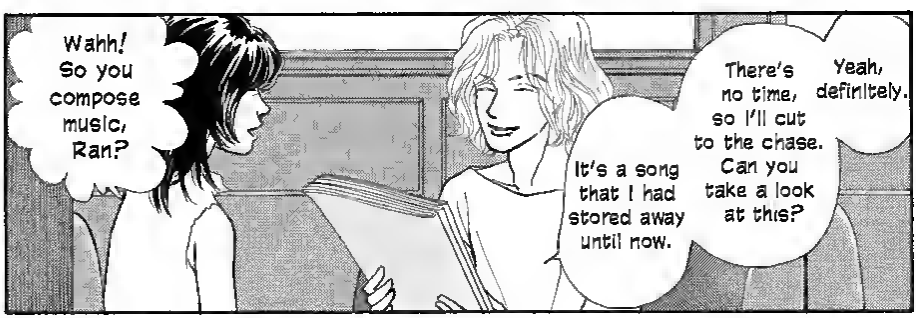
THE HEROINES IN OPERAS RISK THEIR LIVES FOR LOVE.

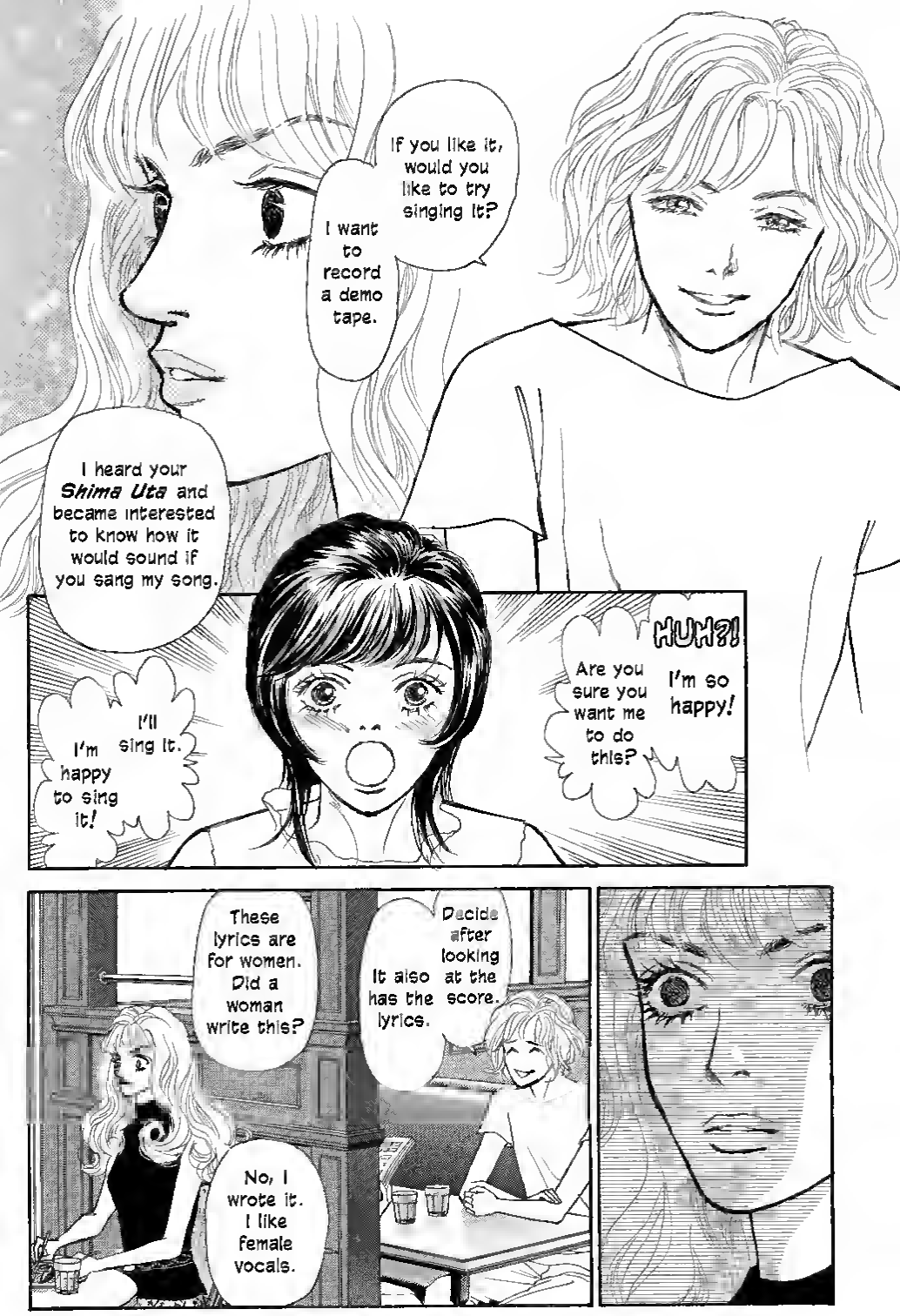
THEY SCREAM AND CRY...

I USED TO THINK THEY WERE BEING TOO HYSTERICAL...


I WANTED TO BECOME IKENOHATA'S DIVA...
...SO I TRIED SINGING IN A WAY THAT I THOUGHT HE WOULD LIKE.
THE ONE HE IS SEARCHING FOR IS NOT A SINGER WHO WOULD MATCH HERSELF TO HIM...
...BUT I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT.
DON'T RUSH.
I'LL SING A SONG THAT SAYS, THIS IS ME.


Even if you ran into a customer, they wouldn't be able to tell.
Rather than that, I'm surprised to see you without the wig.
Don't worry. I dress fast.
Sorry that it's at such a hectic time right before work.


Wahh! So you compose music, Ran?
It's a song that I had stored away until now.
There's no time, so I'll cut to the chase. Can you take a look at this?
Yeah, definitely.

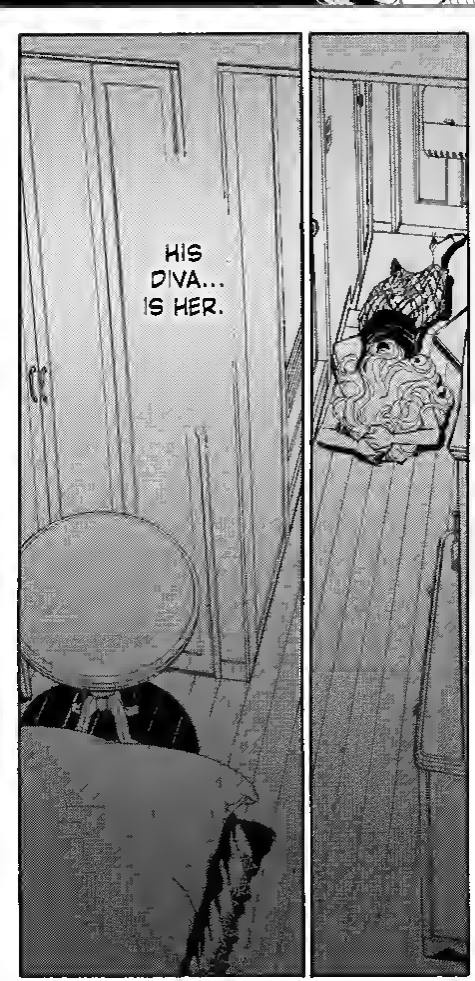

If you like it, would you like to try singing it?
I want to record a demo tape.
I heard your *Shima Uta* and became interested to know how it would sound if you sang my song.
HUH?!
Are you sure you want me to do this?
I'm so happy!
I'll sing it.
I'm happy to sing it!
These lyrics are for women. Did a woman write this?
No, I wrote it. I like female vocals.
It also has the lyrics.
Decide after looking at the score.

How should I put this? It's too pretty.
She sings too smoothly and perfectly. It doesn't grab me.
Oh, then. Will Shio also be singing this?
Um... She's kind of...
I'm weak to sadness that's like howling pain.
This... resembles Irish folk songs...
...or Portu-guese fado.
It's a crying woman's song.
It's a difficult piece that requires a lot of technique and expressive power.
But, please let me practice it.
I'll sing it.

Thank you very much.

SOOTHINGLY, ELEGANTLY, AND BEAUTIFULLY...
I'M GOOD AT SINGING LIKE THAT.
I'M FINE. I'VE FIXED MY MAKEUP AND AM BEAUTIFULLY DISGUISED IN MY ROLE.
PRIMA DONNA IS THE STAGE MOST SUITED FOR ME.
I'M FINE. SEE? I CAN SMILE CONVINCINGLY AS I SING.
I FEEL SO MISERABLE...
I CAN'T GET OVER HOW PATHETIC MY OWN INADEQUACIES ARE.
...AND WRETCHED...
Ugh...
Uuu...
Uuu...
Ahhh...
Ugnn...
DRIP
Ugh...
DRIP
DRIP
CLACK
CLACK
ばたん SLAM

I'M SAD THAT HE DOESN'T NEED ME.
IT'S SO PAINFUL AS IF MY WHOLE PERSONALITY WAS BEING DENIED.
I'M BITTER THAT HE CHOSE A WOMAN.
I FEEL SAD, BITTER, AND ANGRY...
I'M ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR BEING UNABLE TO MAKE HIM REALIZE MY CHARMS.

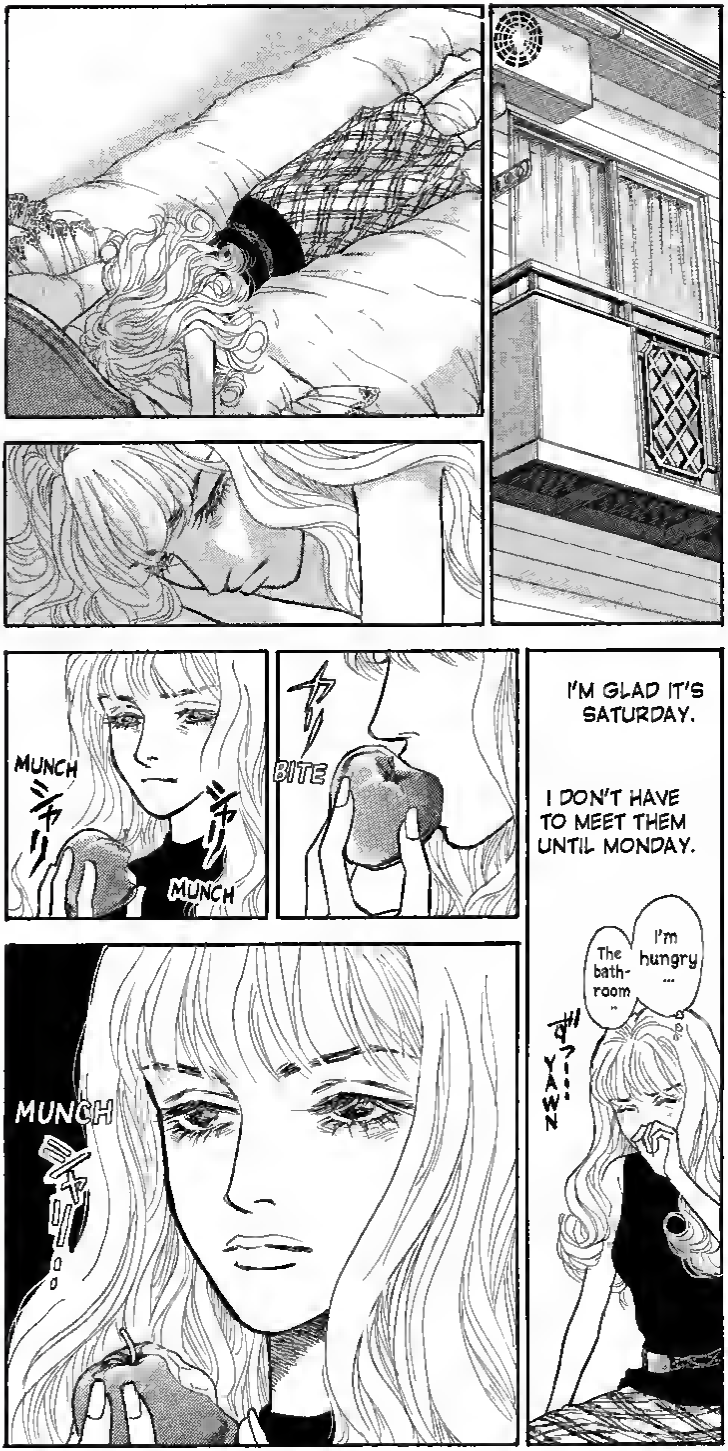


I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO SAY THAT.

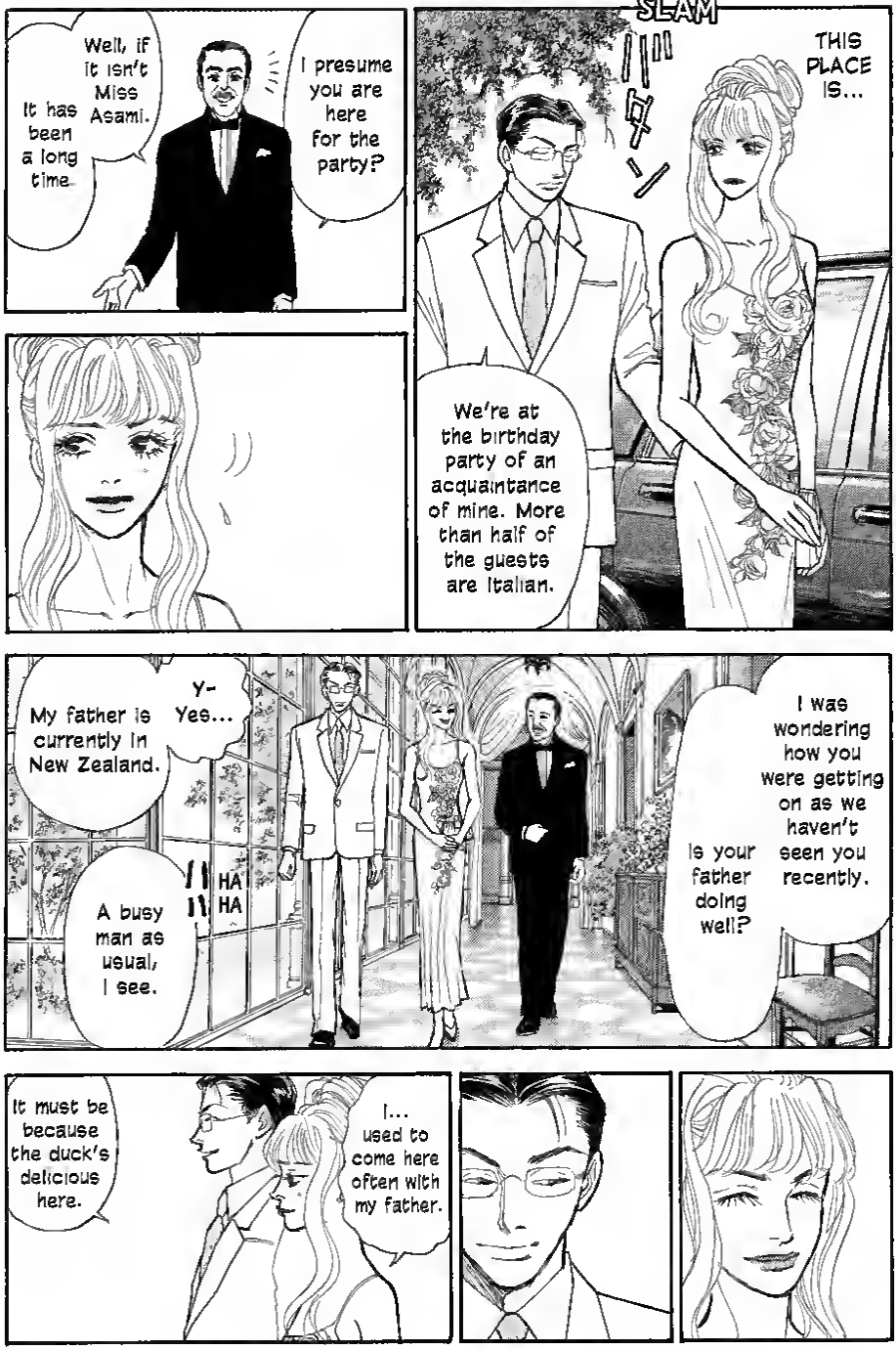
I WANT TO BE THE ONE TO SAY THAT.

I WAS DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH ANY HARDSHIP...

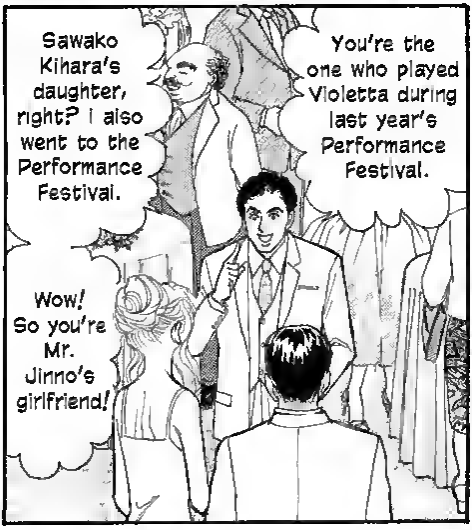
...TO BE ABLE TO SAY THOSE WORDS.

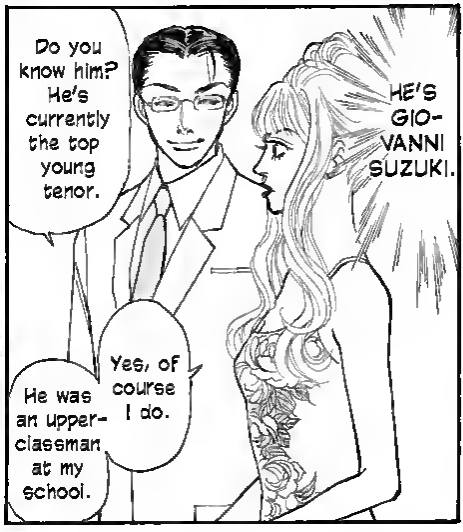

I'M GLAD IT'S SATURDAY.
I DON'T HAVE TO MEET THEM UNTIL MONDAY.
I'm hungry ...
The bath-room ..
YAWN
BITE
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

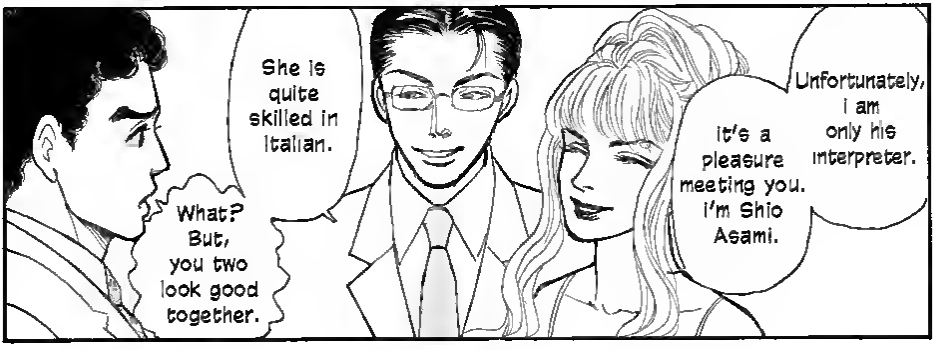
What? A translator job?
Tomorrow?
Hello ...?
FATHER...
THE DOOR THAT WAS ALMOST OPEN...
MUNCH
MUNCH
...SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED...
You sound quite exhausted.
If you're ill, then...
IT'S BETTER TO DISTRACT MYSELF BY DOING SOMETHING, THAN SIT HERE CRYING ALL ALONE.
I understand.
A garden party, right?
RISTORANTE GIANNINI


Well, if it isn't Miss Asami.
It has been a long time.
I presume you are here for the party?
SLAM
THIS PLACE IS...
We're at the birthday party of an acquaintance of mine. More than half of the guests are Italian.
I was wondering how you were getting on as we haven't seen you recently.
Is your father doing well?
Y- Yes...
My father is currently in New Zealand.
HA HA
A busy man as usual, I see.
I... used to come here often with my father.
It must be because the duck's delicious here.

Mr. Jinno!
I know you're busy, but I'm happy that you came for my mother.

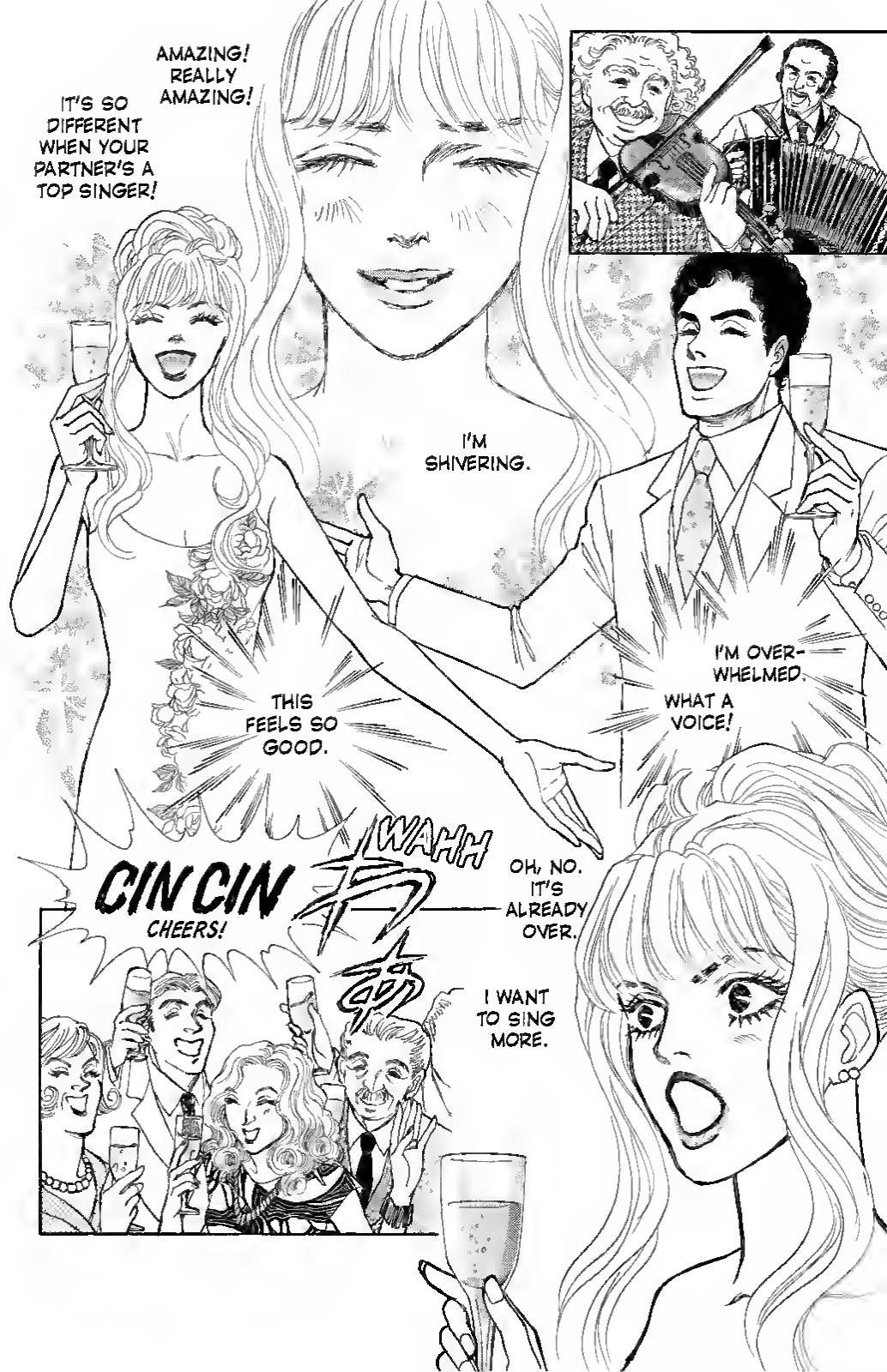

You're the one who played Violetta during last year's Performance Festival.
Sawako Kihara's daughter, right? I also went to the Performance Festival.
Wow! So you're Mr. Jinno's girlfriend!


HE'S GIO-VANNI SUZUKI.
Do you know him? He's currently the top young tenor.
Yes, of course I do.
He was an upper-classman at my school.


She is quite skilled in Italian.
What? But, you two look good together.
Unfortunately, I am only his interpreter.
It's a pleasure meeting you. I'm Shio Asami.

PRIDE 2

I had a feeling something like this might happen.
Me too, actually.
Giovanni! I'm guessing it'll be flashy, but I'll play anything!
I wouldn't mind if it's a duet with such a beauty.
People keep asking me to sing a song.
Hey! Sing *Libiamo ne' lieti calici* with me, Miss Shio!
Oh, my! I wonder which song he'll sing for me.
Giovanni's going to sing.
Well then, everyone... To celebrate my beloved Momma's birthday, I'll be singing *Libiamo ne' lieti calici*!
Everyone! Please take a glass!
THIS IS A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
AMAZING!
I CAN SING WITH GIOVANNI SUZUKI...?

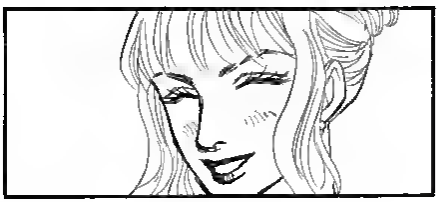

AMAZING! REALLY AMAZING!
IT'S SO DIFFERENT WHEN YOUR PARTNER'S A TOP SINGER!
I'M SHIVERING.
I'M OVER-WHELMED.
WHAT A VOICE!
THIS FEELS SO GOOD.
CIN CIN
CHEERS!
WAHH
OH, NO. IT'S ALREADY OVER.
I WANT TO SING MORE.

Your Italian pronunciation is very good.
That was marvelous! A beautiful rendition from *La traviata*.
Grazie!
Your Italian is even better than Giovanni's.
Did you study abroad before?

BRAVO!
The beautiful Violetta, Miss Shio!
She's an underclassman from my college.

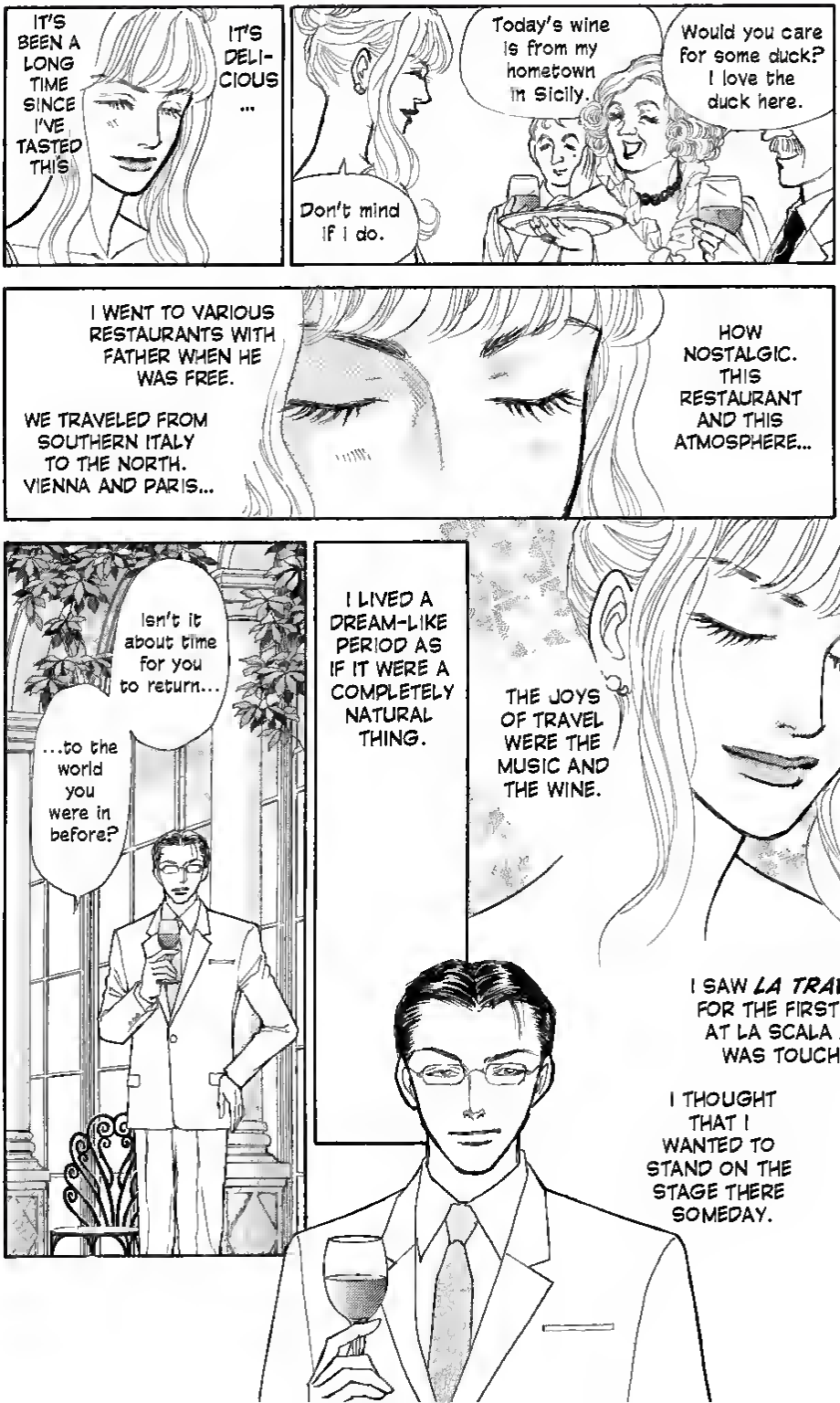
DUN DUN... TH THUMP
DUN DUN... TH THUMP

I think it was my best singing performance ever!
Having him accompany me...
A top-notch singer is truly amazing.
It felt so good to sing how I wanted.
It was my first time seeing you so excited.

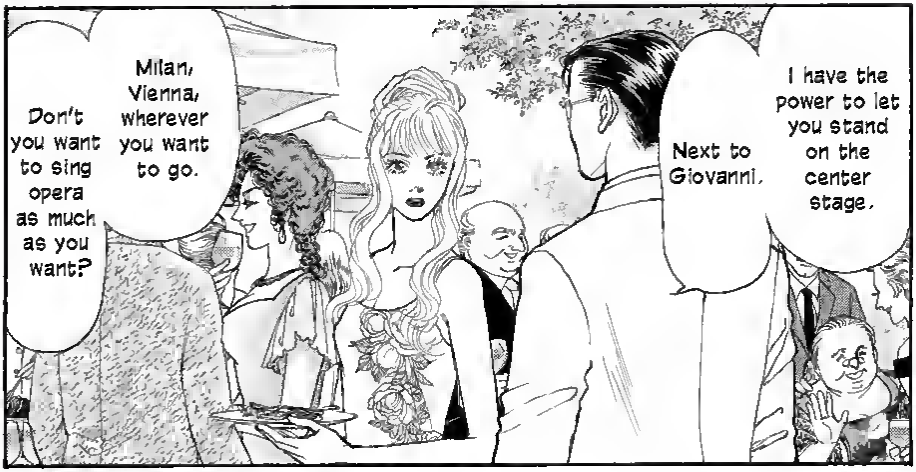


My heart's still racing.

I was surprised at how you could keep up with him.
Good for you.


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TASTED THIS
IT'S DELI-CIOUS ...
Today's wine is from my hometown in Sicily.
Would you care for some duck? I love the duck here.
Don't mind if I do.
I WENT TO VARIOUS RESTAURANTS WITH FATHER WHEN HE WAS FREE.
WE TRAVELED FROM SOUTHERN ITALY TO THE NORTH. VIENNA AND PARIS...
HOW NOSTALGIC. THIS RESTAURANT AND THIS ATMOSPHERE...
Isn't it about time for you to return...
...to the world you were in before?
I LIVED A DREAM-LIKE PERIOD AS IF IT WERE A COMPLETELY NATURAL THING.
THE JOYS OF TRAVEL WERE THE MUSIC AND THE WINE.
I SAW LA TRAVIATA FOR THE FIRST TIME AT LA SCALA AND WAS TOUCHED.
I THOUGHT THAT I WANTED TO STAND ON THE STAGE THERE SOMEDAY.

PRIDE 2


Don't you want to sing opera as much as you want?
Milan, Vienna, wherever you want to go.
Next to Giovanni.
I have the power to let you stand on the center stage.

I think I could become a good patron.
Isn't it normal for a singer to have a patron?
Just think of this as patronage in the name of marriage.

If there's a nice appearance, mood, and a beautiful voice, personality would only serve to distract from it. They don't have to be your songs.
Right now, you're perfect for that place.
Do you want to keep singing at *Prima Donna* and cater to the customers' moods?
The customers listening as they have drinks?
Or...

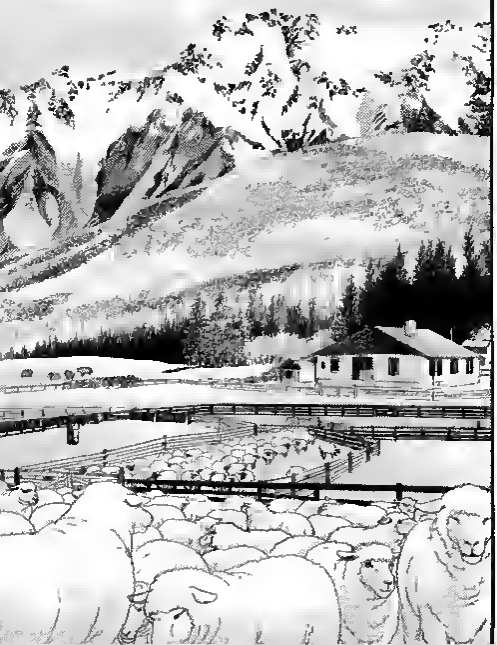
I can only give you a chance.
It's your job to polish who and what you are.
Will you...
...polish who and what I am?
Don't you want to proudly say to yourself, *This is my own song?*
I'll sing it.
If being a beautiful singing doll isn't enough, that is.
It's better to polish who and what you are early on.
She sings too smoothly and perfectly. It doesn't grab me.
Hey, Asami!
You have a love letter!
VROOM

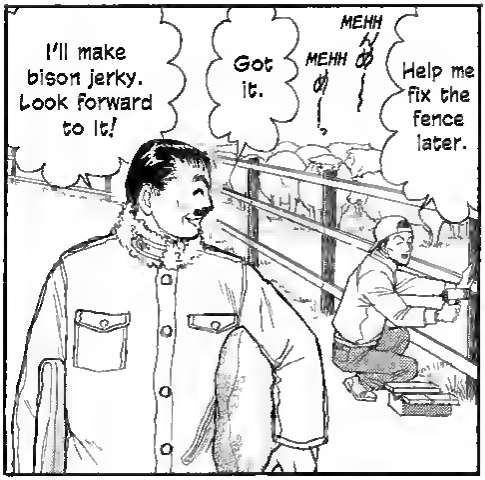
I'M STRUGGLING TO INCREASE MY REPERTOIRE, BUT...

...I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO MAKE MY FAVORITE SONGS INTO WORK.

DO YOUR BEST, FATHER.

I'M ALSO DOING MY BEST.





I'VE SENT YOU A MUFFLER AND SCARF THAT I THOUGHT WOULD SUIT YOU.

AND ALSO SOME ADHESIVE HEAT PADS.

ARE YOU WELL?

IT'S ALREADY WINTER THERE, ISN'T IT?

MY FAVORITE, LA SCALA IN MILAN...

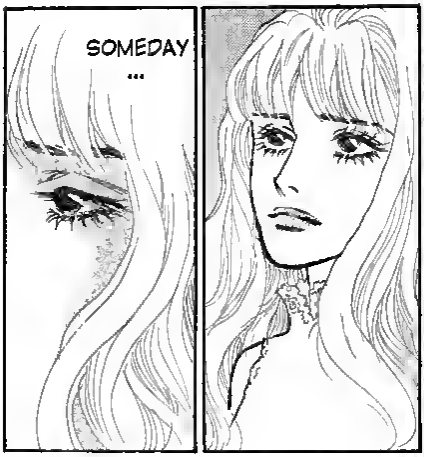
L'OPÉRA DE PARIS...

THE LAST OPERA FATHER AND I SAW TOGETHER WAS *CARMEN* AT THE GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU IN BARCELONA.

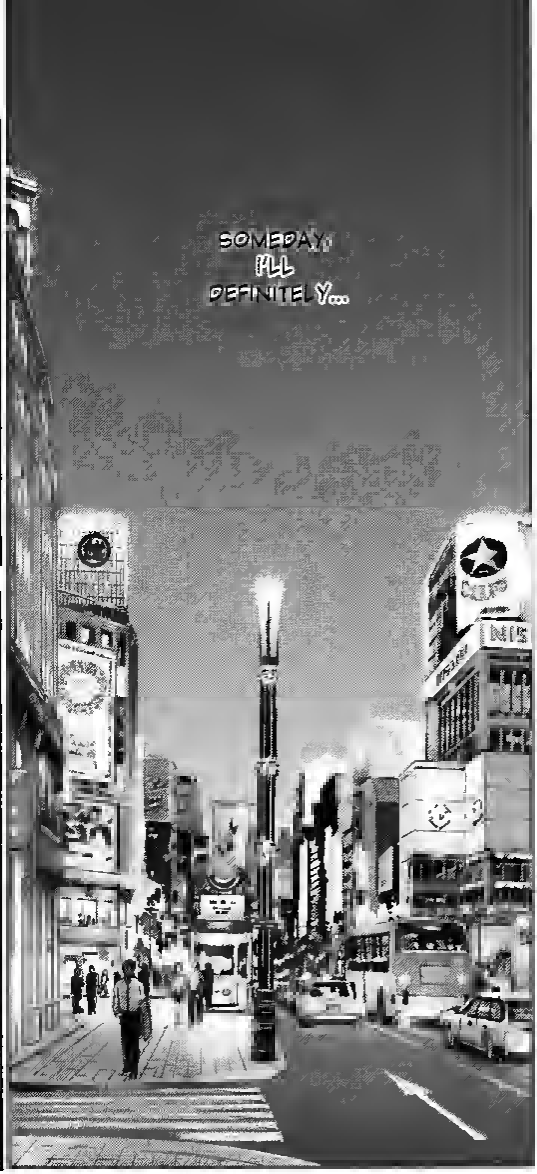
SOMEDAY, I ALSO WANT TO PERFORM *CARMEN* AT THE GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU.

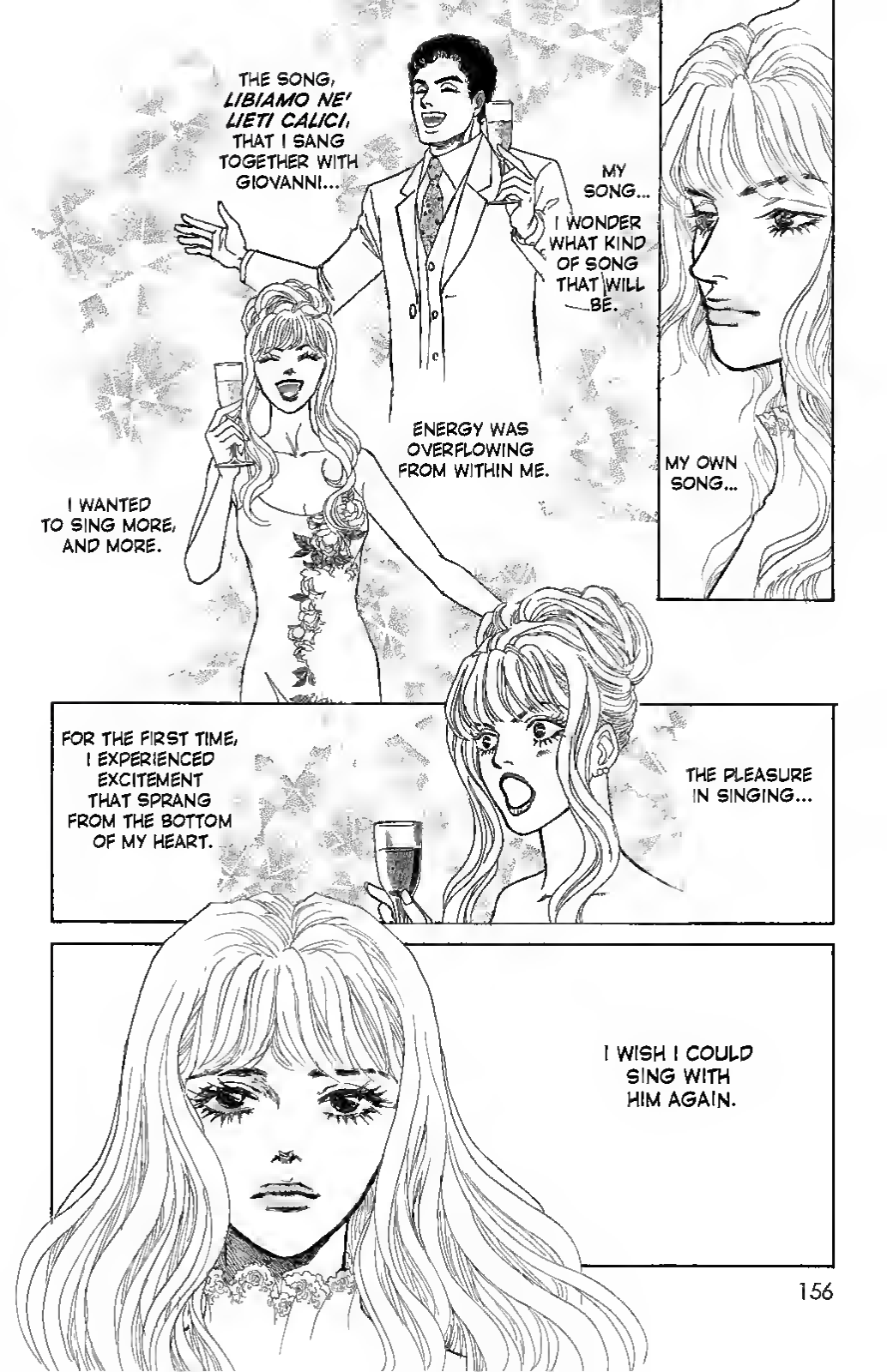
I THOUGHT THAT, SOMEDAY, I WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO STAND ON THAT STAGE.

PRIDE 2


SOMEDAY
...

Don't you want to proudly say to yourself, This is my own song?

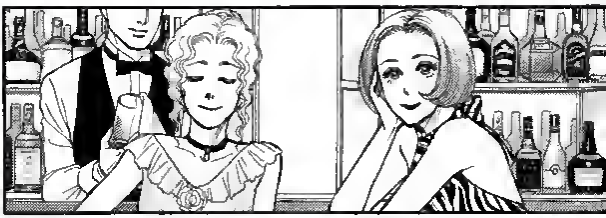

SOMEDAY, I'LL DEFINITELY...

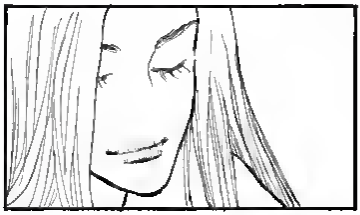

THE SONG, *LIBIAMO NE' LIETI CALICI*, THAT I SANG TOGETHER WITH GIOVANNI...
MY SONG... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SONG THAT WILL BE.
MY OWN SONG...
ENERGY WAS OVERFLOWING FROM WITHIN ME.
I WANTED TO SING MORE, AND MORE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I EXPERIENCED EXCITEMENT THAT SPRANG FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
THE PLEASURE IN SINGING...
I WISH I COULD SING WITH HIM AGAIN.

AHHH
HM?
HOW UNUSUAL.
IKENOHATA IS PLAYING THE PIANO BEFORE THE START OF A PERFORMANCE.
A DONNA
Far, far, far away...
A voice I heard calling me some time ago...

SOMEWHAT NEW, SOMEWHAT NOSTALGIC...

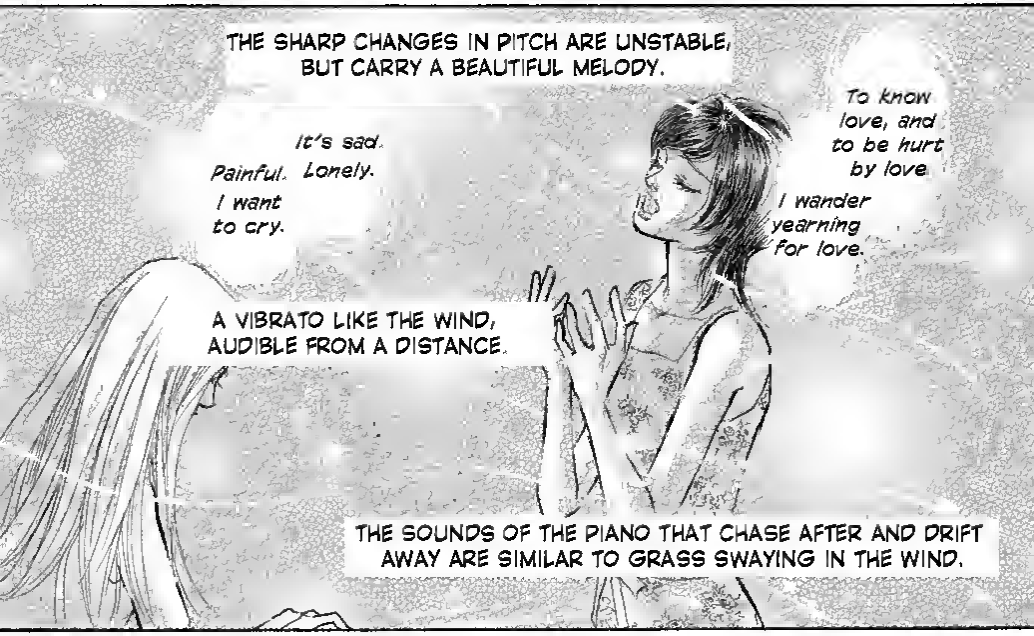
AN UNUSUAL MELODY...





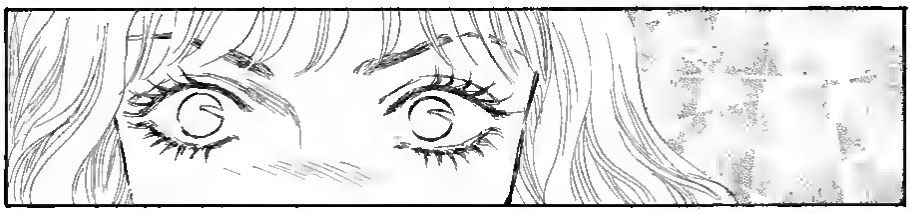
A HIGH, THIN, AND PAIN-FILLED VOICE AS IF IT WAS BEING WRUNG OUT.

THE SHARP CHANGES IN PITCH ARE UNSTABLE, BUT CARRY A BEAUTIFUL MELODY.

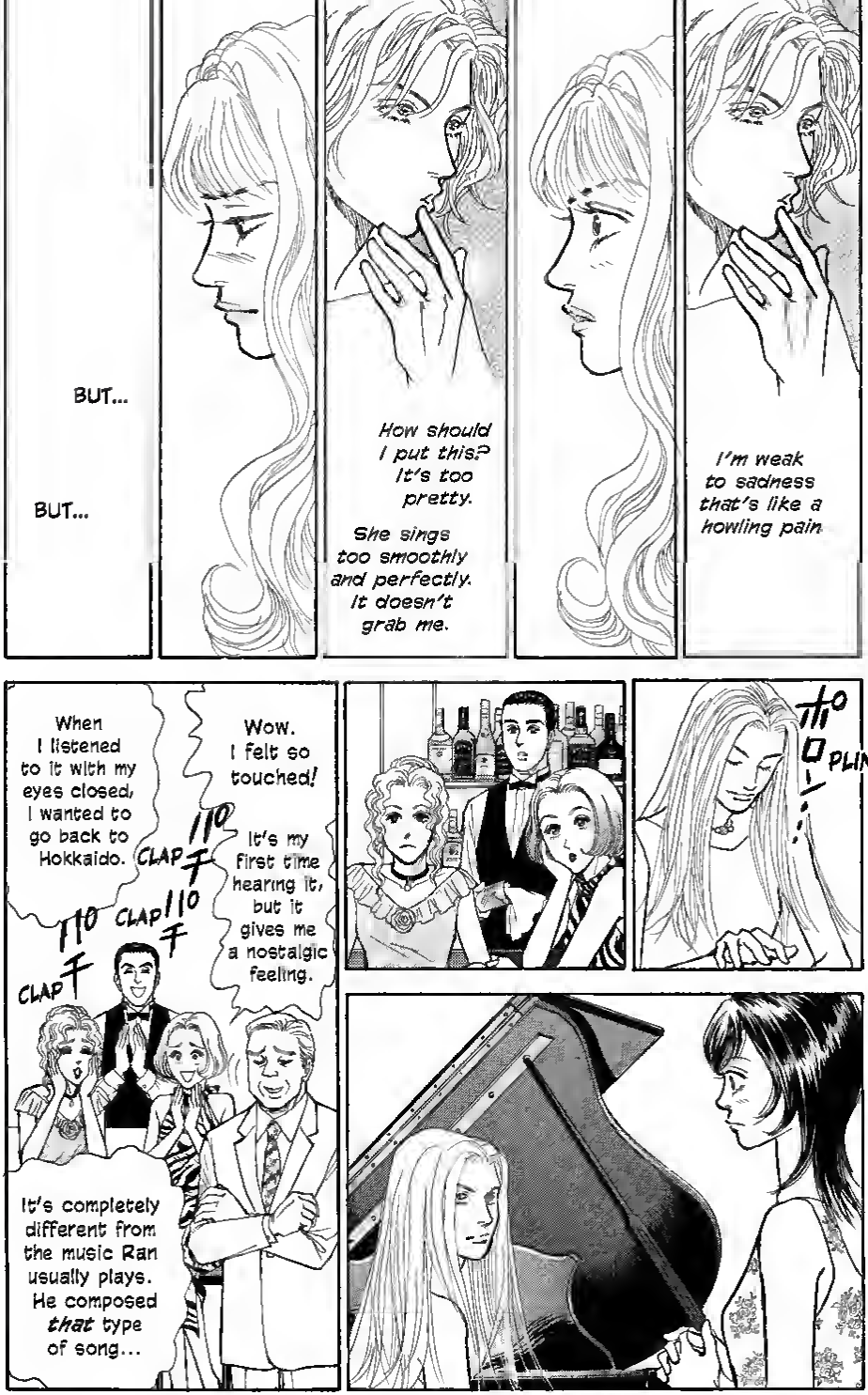


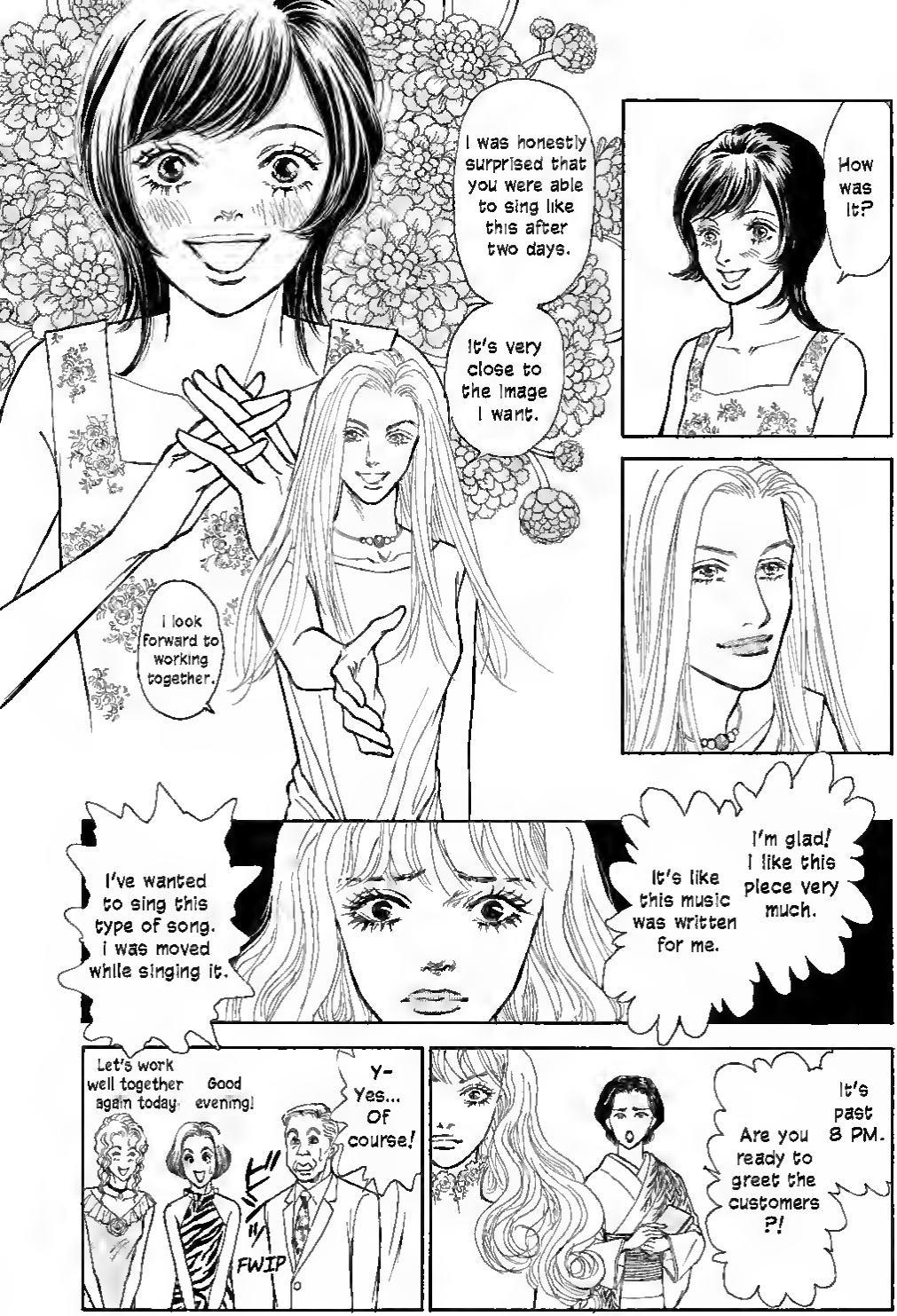
A VIBRATO LIKE THE WIND, AUDIBLE FROM A DISTANCE.

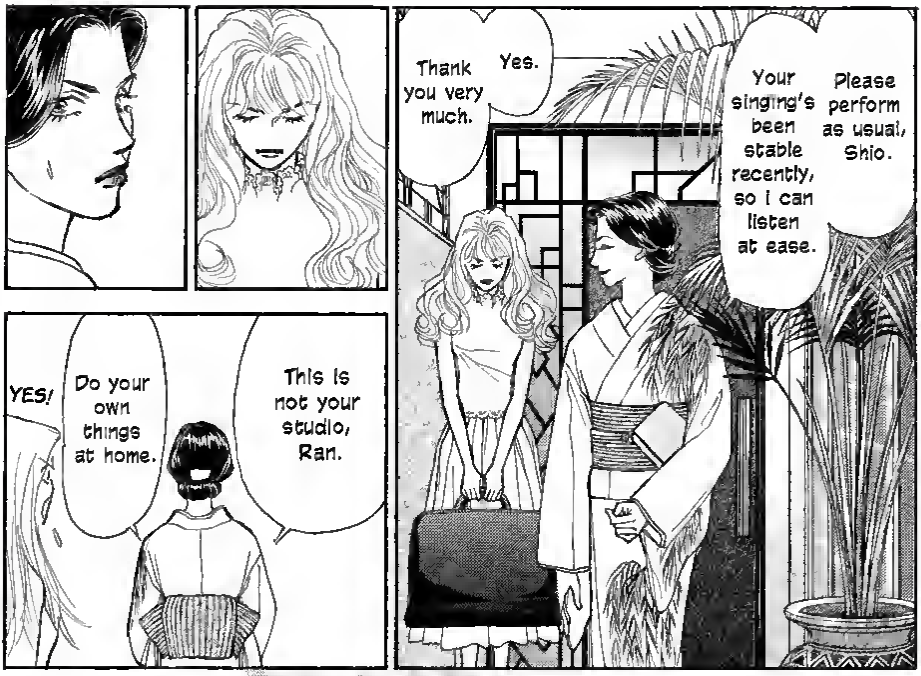
THE SOUNDS OF THE PIANO THAT CHASE AFTER AND DRIFT AWAY ARE SIMILAR TO GRASS SWAYING IN THE WIND.

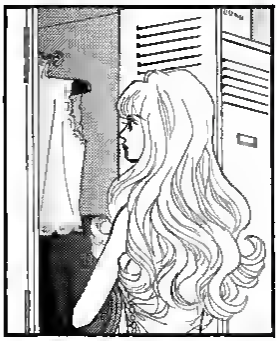


I want to go back. I can't go back.
I am in this place. I am here.
Filling the gap in my heart
A nostalgic ... voice that I heard somewhere before...
Please, please, please call me.
Where is the place I can return to?
A SOBBING VOICE RISING TO A FALSETTO THAT'S LIKE A SCREAM.
LIKE A REFINED MELODY ABANDONED WITHIN DESOLATE NATURE.
THIS IS THE WORLD THAT IKENOHATA WISHES TO PORTRAY.


BUT...
BUT...
How should I put this? It's too pretty.
She sings too smoothly and perfectly. It doesn't grab me.
I'm weak to sadness that's like a howling pain
When I listened to it with my eyes closed, I wanted to go back to Hokkaido.
Wow. I felt so touched!
It's my first time hearing it, but it gives me a nostalgic feeling.
CLAP
110
It's completely different from the music Ran usually plays. He composed that type of song...
PLINK


I look forward to working together.
I was honestly surprised that you were able to sing like this after two days.
It's very close to the image I want.
How was it?
I've wanted to sing this type of song. I was moved while singing it.
It's like this music was written for me.
I'm glad! I like this piece very much.
Let's work well together again today.
Good evening!
FWIP
Y-Yes... Of course!
It's past 8 PM.
Are you ready to greet the customers?!


Please perform as usual, Shio.
Your singing's been stable recently, so I can listen at ease.
Yes.
Thank you very much.
This is not your studio, Ran.
Do your own things at home.
YES!



I CAN STILL HEAR IT.

AN UNSTABLE, BUT BEAUTIFUL MELODY..

SOMEWHAT NEW, SOMEWHAT NOSTALGIC...

AN UNUSUAL MELODY...

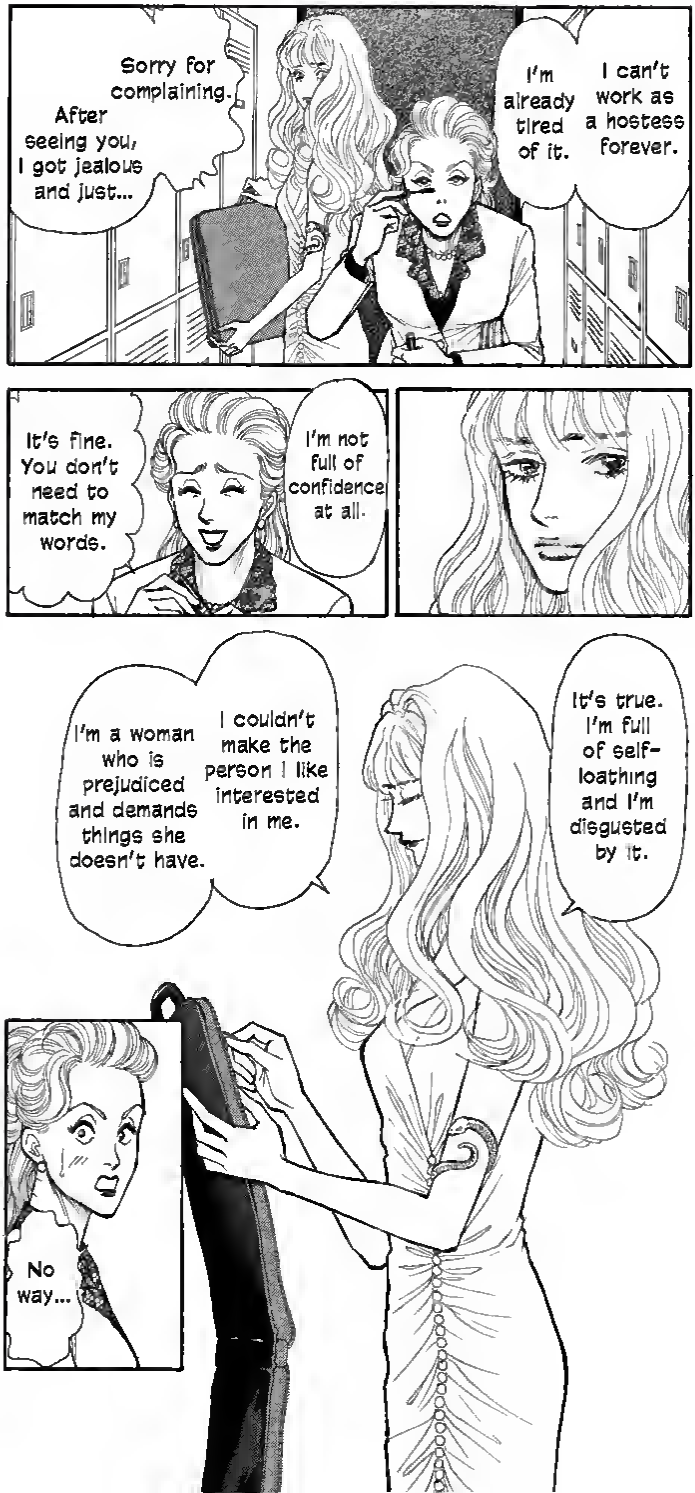
THE NOTES FROM IKENOHATA'S PIANO ARE LIKE GRASS SWAYING IN THE WIND...

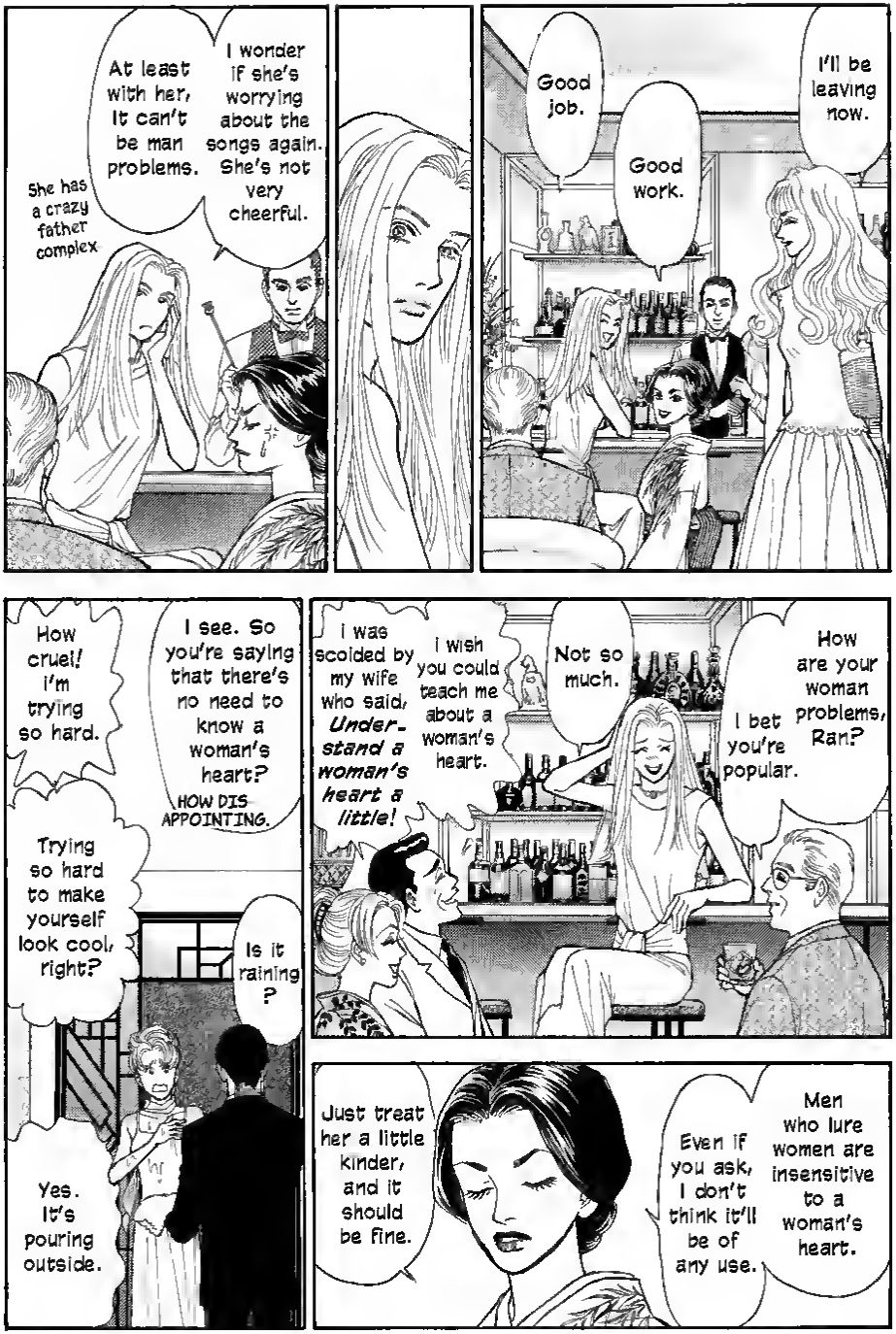
IT'S AS IF THE VOICE AND PIANO ARE ENTANGLED. AS IF THEY ARE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER.

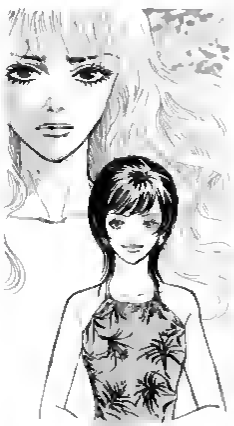
A WORLD IN WHICH THEY BOTH PERFORM EQUALLY.

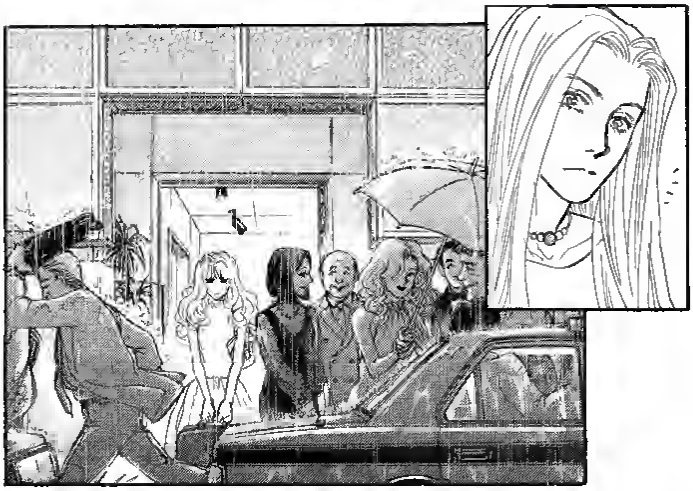
I WANT TO SING IT.
I WOULD LIKE TO SING THAT SONG, TOO.
A QUIET EXCITEMENT.
AS IF THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART WERE BEING SHAKEN.
Well, well. You look fabulous as always.
It's been a while.
HEY...
KYA HA HA
HA HA HA
Yes. That's right.
Ran composes really good music.
He's from a television station.
You're really pretty You totally look like a women
YES.
CLAP 110
CLAP 110

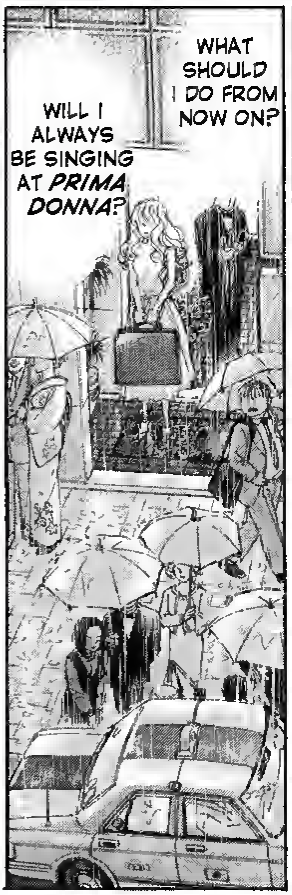
How many times do you have to cheat on me until you're satisfied?!
Don't lie to me! I know you are!
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO LOOK AT THOSE TWO.
IKENOHATA IS NOT IN THE WRONG.
NEITHER IS THAT WOMAN.
Ah, sorry about that.
Excuse me.
You've probably never suffered because of a man.
I'm envious. You're young, beautiful, and full of confidence.
You're going home, right? Don't mind me, go ahead and get changed
Oh, no! My mascara!
I had a little fight with my guy.
CREAK
All right.


I can't work as a hostess forever.
I'm already tired of it.
Sorry for complaining. After seeing you, I got jealous and just...
I'm not full of confidence at all.
It's fine. You don't need to match my words.
It's true. I'm full of self-loathing and I'm disgusted by it.
I couldn't make the person I like interested in me.
I'm a woman who is prejudiced and demands things she doesn't have.
No way...

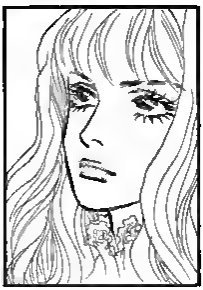

At least with her, it can't be man problems.
I wonder if she's worrying about the songs again. She's not very cheerful.
She has a crazy father complex.
Good job.
Good work.
I'll be leaving now.
I was scolded by my wife who said, Understand a woman's heart a little!
I wish you could teach me about a woman's heart.
Not so much.
I bet you're popular.
How are your woman problems, Ran?
How cruel! I'm trying so hard.
I see. So you're saying that there's no need to know a woman's heart?
HOW DISAPPOINTING.
Trying so hard to make yourself look cool, right?
Is it raining?
Yes. It's pouring outside.
Just treat her a little kinder, and it should be fine.
Even if you ask, I don't think it'll be of any use.
Men who lure women are insensitive to a woman's heart.

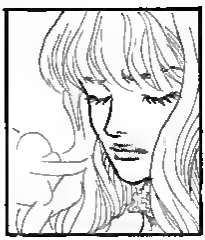


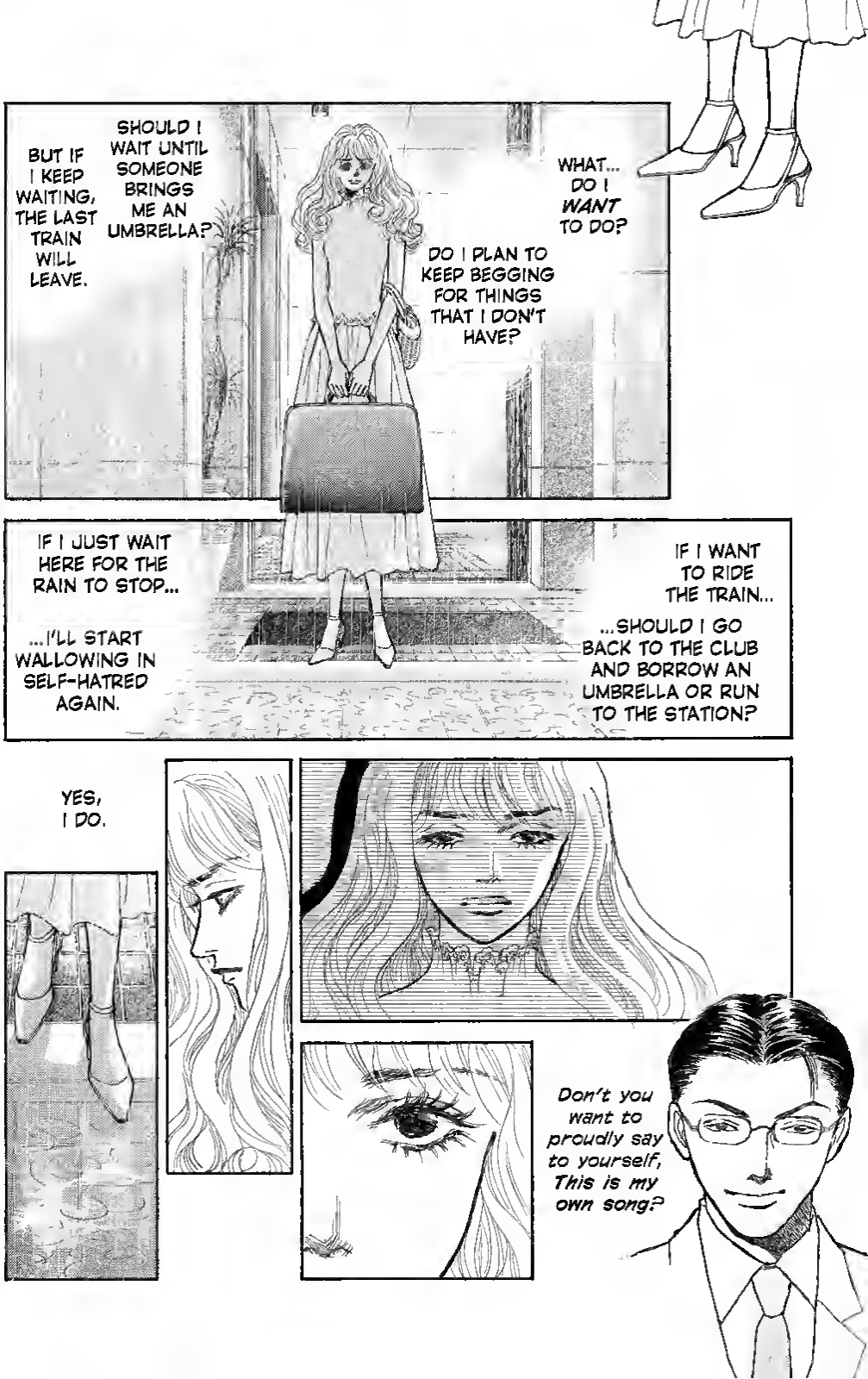



WILL I ALWAYS BE SINGING AT *PRIMA DONNA*?
WHAT SHOULD I DO FROM NOW ON?

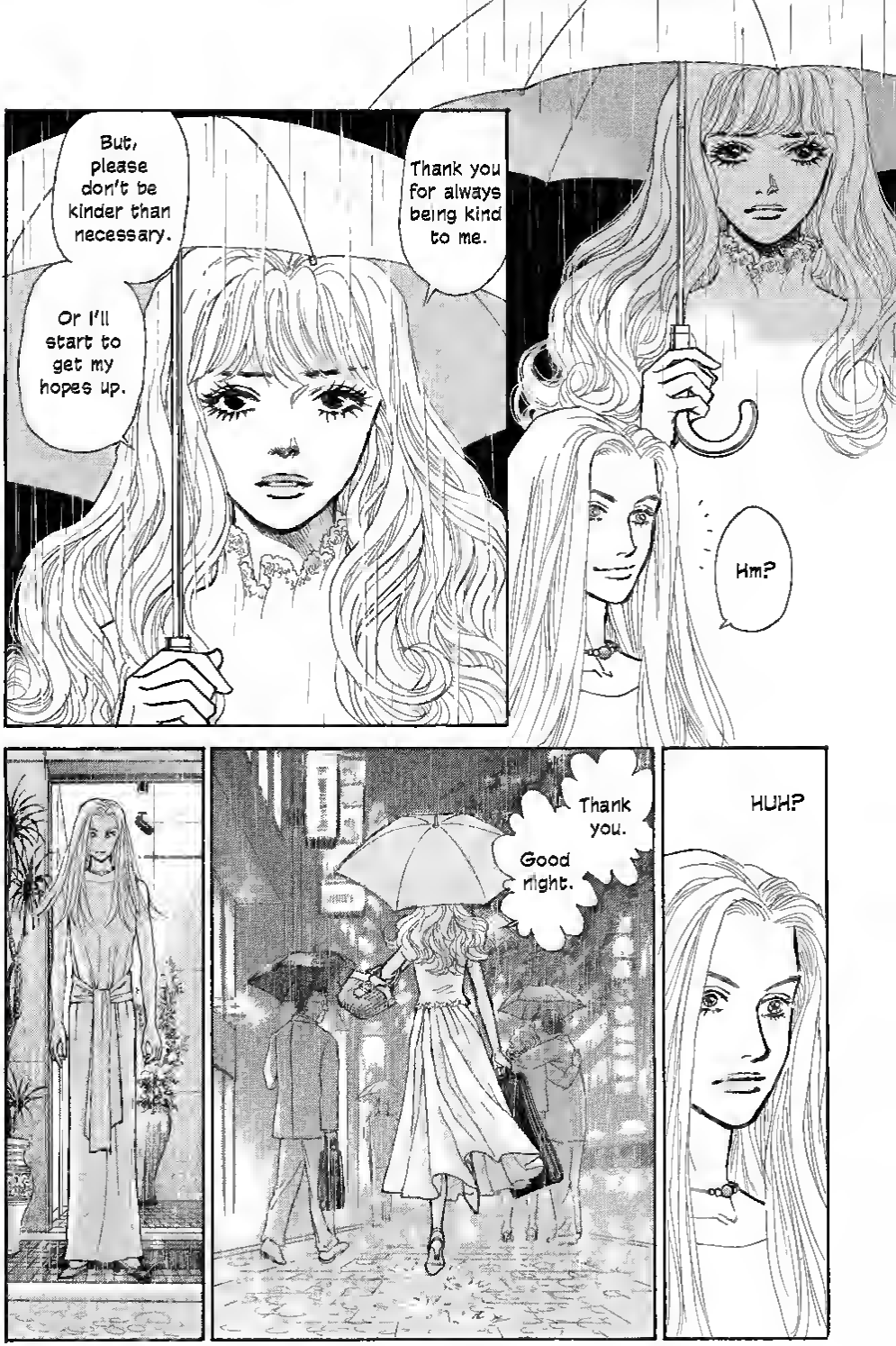
I can't work as a hostess forever.
I'm already tired of it.



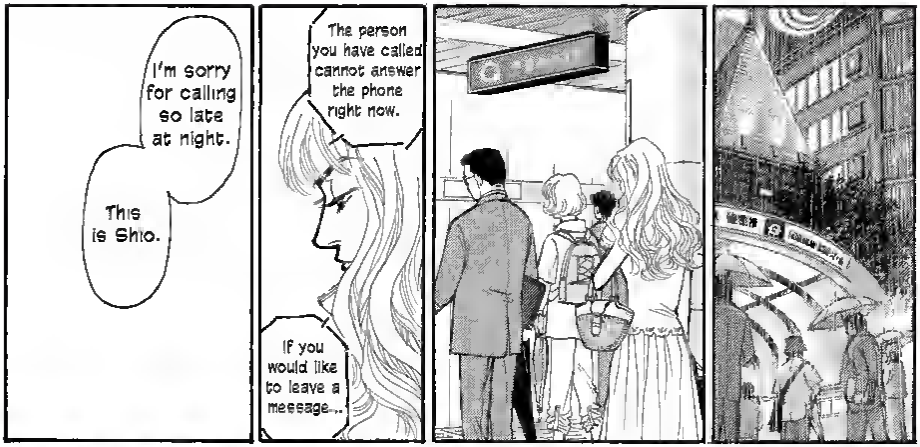


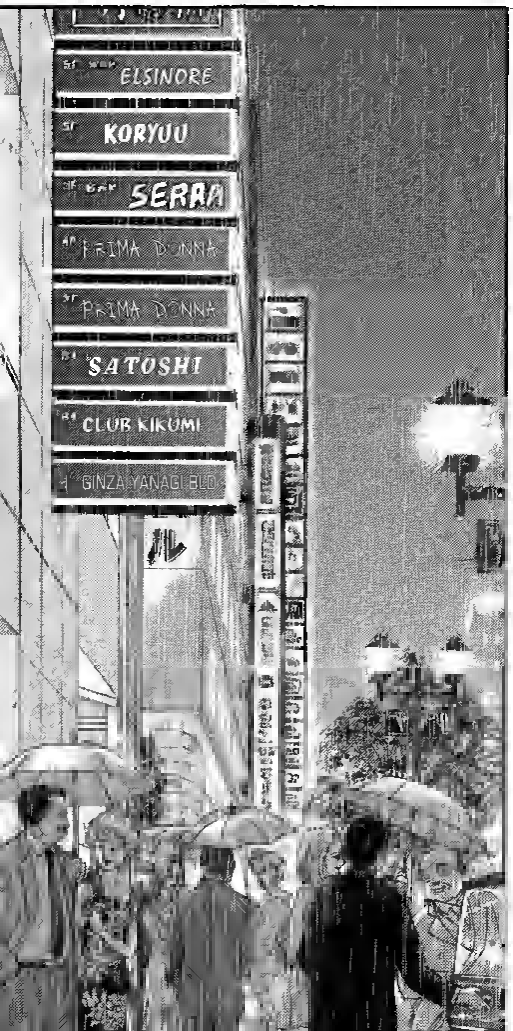

BUT IF I KEEP WAITING, THE LAST TRAIN WILL LEAVE.
SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL SOMEONE BRINGS ME AN UMBRELLA?
DO I PLAN TO KEEP BEGGING FOR THINGS THAT I DON'T HAVE?
WHAT... DO I *WANT* TO DO?
IF I JUST WAIT HERE FOR THE RAIN TO STOP...
...I'LL START WALLOWING IN SELF-HATRED AGAIN.
IF I WANT TO RIDE THE TRAIN...
...SHOULD I GO BACK TO THE CLUB AND BORROW AN UMBRELLA OR RUN TO THE STATION?
YES, I DO.
Don't you want to proudly say to yourself, This is my own song?

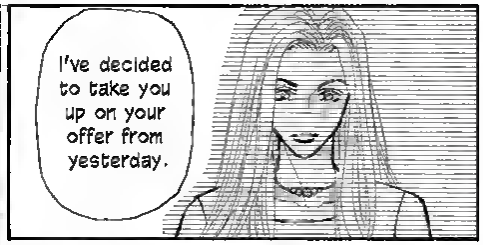
Hey, Shi!
I brought you an umbrella!
Good thing I made it in time.
You'll get soaked if you run to the station.
You can still catch a cold, even in the summer.
POP
Here.
Thank you...

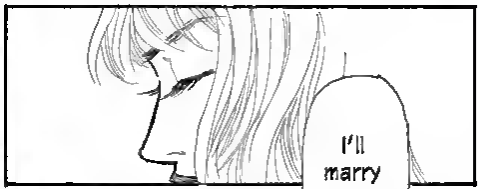

But, please don't be kinder than necessary.
Or I'll start to get my hopes up.
Thank you for always being kind to me.
Hm?
Thank you.
Good night.
HUH?

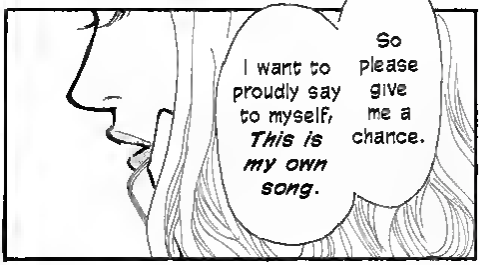
PRIDE 2


I'm sorry for calling so late at night.
This is Shio.
The person you have called cannot answer the phone right now.
If you would like to leave a meeeage...


ELSINORE
KORYUU
SERAA
PRIMA DONNA
PRIMA DONNA
SATOSHI
CLUB KIKUMI
GINZA YANAGI BLD.


I've decided to take you up on your offer from yesterday.

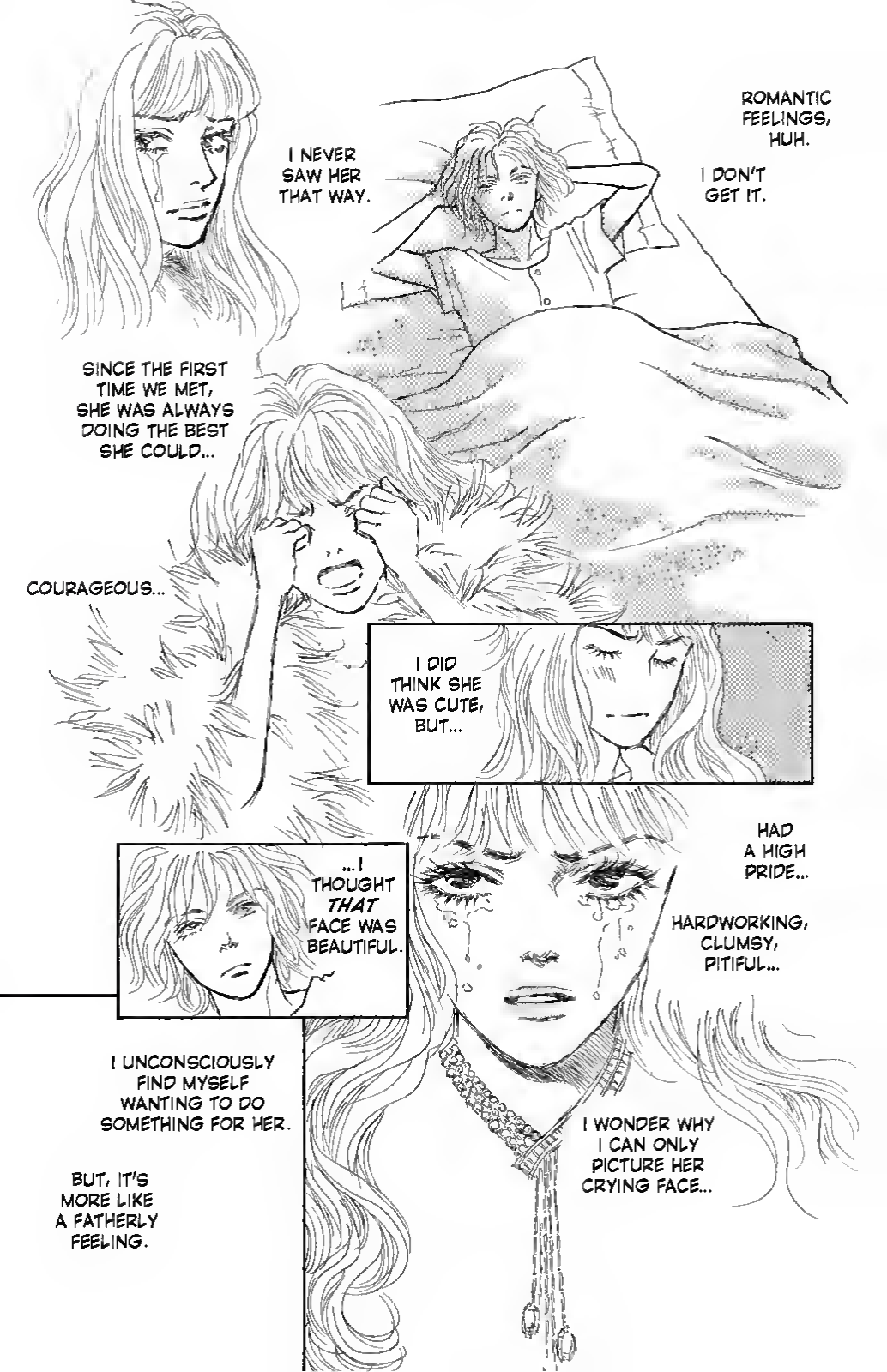

I'll marry you.


I want to proudly say to myself, *This is my own song.*
So please give me a chance.

Ran?
Ahh... Today was another full day at work
Prepare me some tea, Ran.
You mean about Shio?
I guess I really am very insensitive.
I feel sorry for her for falling for a music maniac with no muscles...
Since you chose Moe right in front of her eyes.
(Where's my tea?)
...it's understandable that you might suddenly find yourself liking that person.
If you're treated kindly during a time when you're vulnerable and alone ...
You knew?!
It was by chance.
She seemed to be shocked when she saw you flirting with your girlfriend.
SIGH
The loud one from the day of the musical.

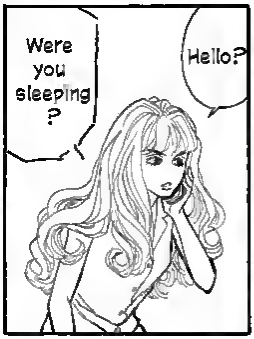
PRIDE 2

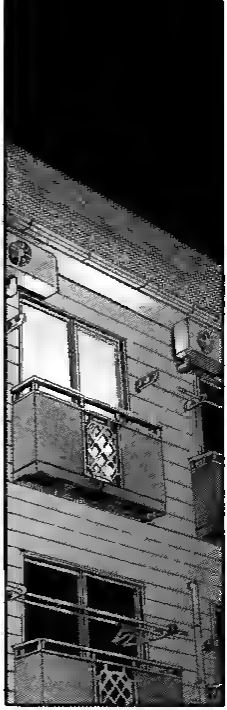
My, my. How splendid! Her ladylike temperament is still alive and kicking.
That's just like Shio.
...I was told not to be kind to her or she'll start to get her hopes up.
So that was why...
I see...
She has a crazy father complex, so I never thought she had any romantic feelings.
...I technically have a girlfriend.
Shi's definitely not like most girls, but...
Shouldn't she ask about my feelings?
But normally, wouldn't a person confess first before saying that?
What? Did you want her to confess her love to you?
Hello?
I have no idea what you're talking about.
My tea!
...I'm going to bed.
It's a bit too much for me to take, so...
SIGH
I'd be troubled if she did.
No...
.....

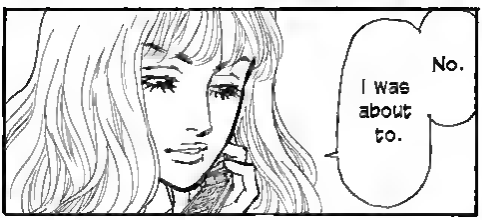

I NEVER SAW HER THAT WAY.
ROMANTIC FEELINGS, HUH.
I DON'T GET IT.
SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET, SHE WAS ALWAYS DOING THE BEST SHE COULD...
COURAGEOUS...
I DID THINK SHE WAS CUTE, BUT...
...I THOUGHT *THAT* FACE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
HAD A HIGH PRIDE...
HARDWORKING, CLUMSY, PITIFUL...
I UNCONSCIOUSLY FIND MYSELF WANTING TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER.
BUT, IT'S MORE LIKE A FATHERLY FEELING.
I WONDER WHY I CAN ONLY PICTURE HER CRYING FACE...

PRIDE 2

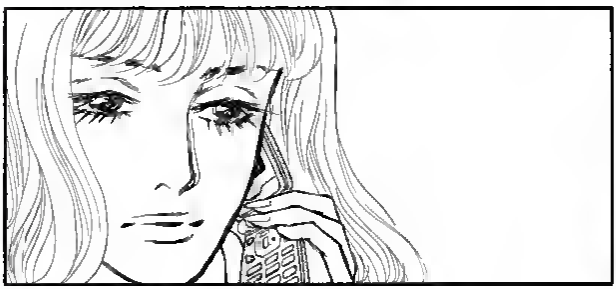
I heard your message.
I'd like to meet tomorrow, but I'm in London.
I'll call you when I get back.
I can't say when I'll be able to settle the problem.


Were you sleeping?
Hello?




No. I was about to.

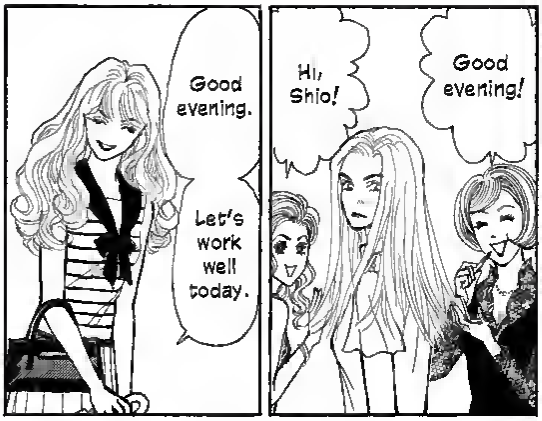
What should I call you?
Is there a name you prefer to be called by?

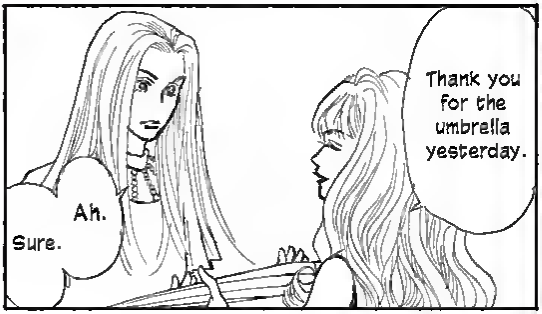


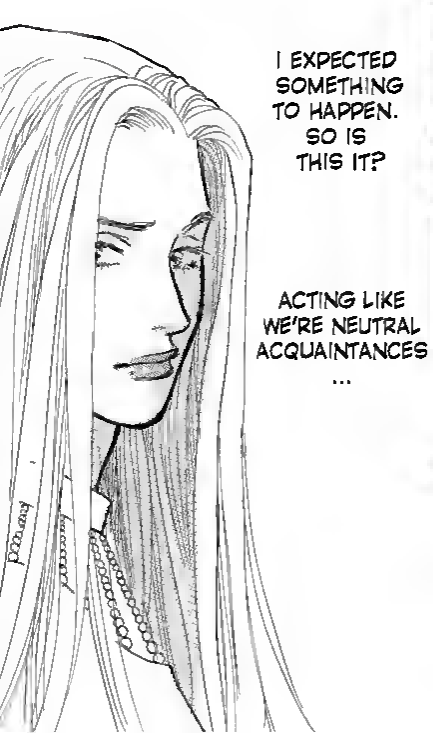
There's one thing I want to ask you.
I understand.

Do you have champagne by the glass?
I feel like drinking a bit.
Of course.
It's still evening over here
KLACK
As long as it isn't Shi...
...anything is fine.
Yes.
Good night.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE BEST DECISION, BUT...
...I WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED THIS OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
JUST THINK OF THIS AS PATRONAGE IN THE NAME OF MARRIAGE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM MARRYING MY SONG.

PRIDE 2


Good evening.
Let's work well today.
Hi, Shio!
Good evening!

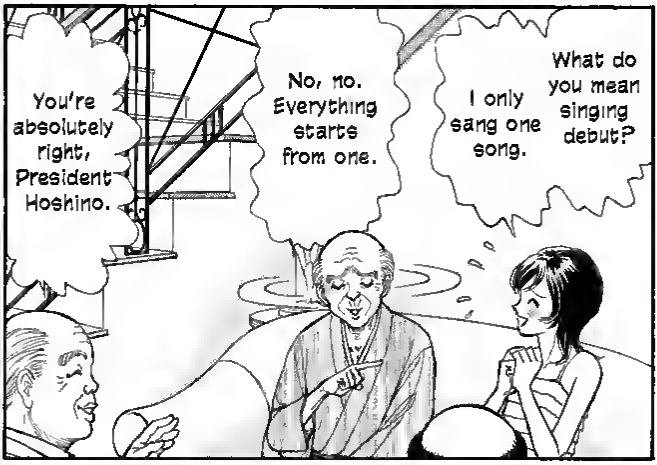

Thank you for the umbrella yesterday.
Ah. Sure.

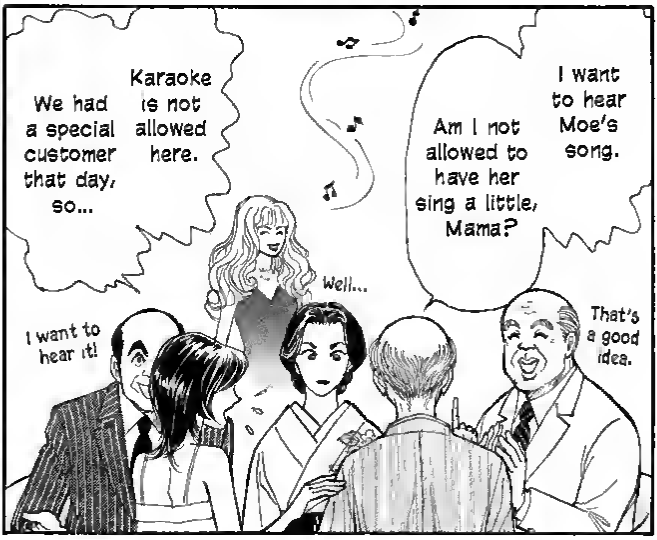

I EXPECTED SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. SO IS THIS IT?
ACTING LIKE WE'RE NEUTRAL ACQUAINTANCES ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.
RATHER THAN CHASE AFTER THINGS I DON'T HAVE...
...I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT I CAN DO USING MY OWN ABILITY.
I WANT TO FULFILL MY OWN POTENTIAL.

You had your singing debut at *Prima Donna*!
I heard about it, Moe!

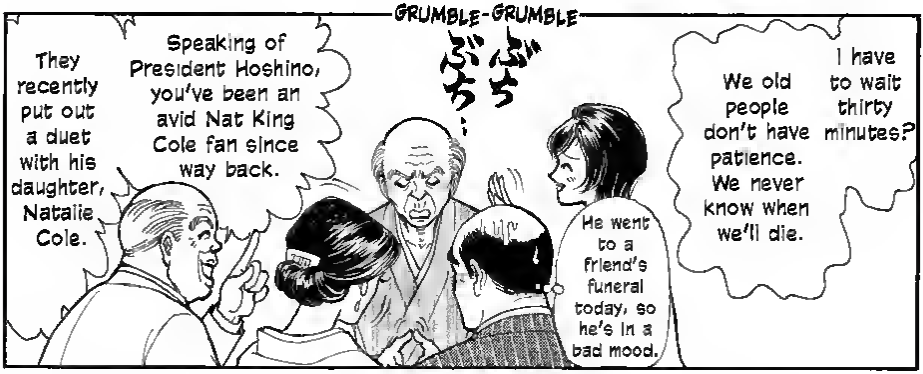
HMPH
Who's a special customer?
Oh, dear. I'm sorry. Of course that includes you, Grandpa.
REALLY! THIS GIRL'S GOOD AT STIRRING UP THE CUSTOMERS

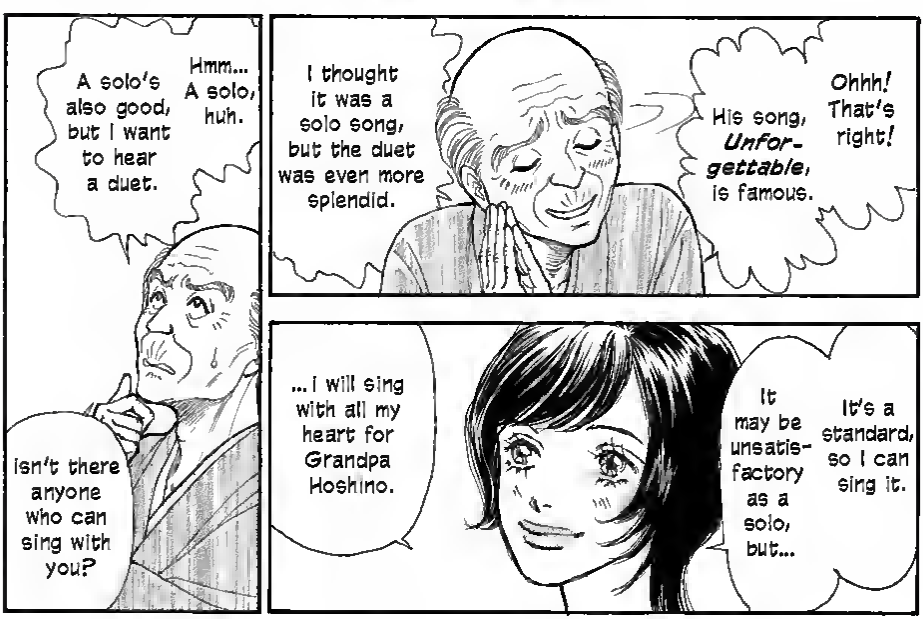

You're absolutely right, President Hoshino.
No, no. Everything starts from one.
I only sang one song.
What do you mean singing debut?

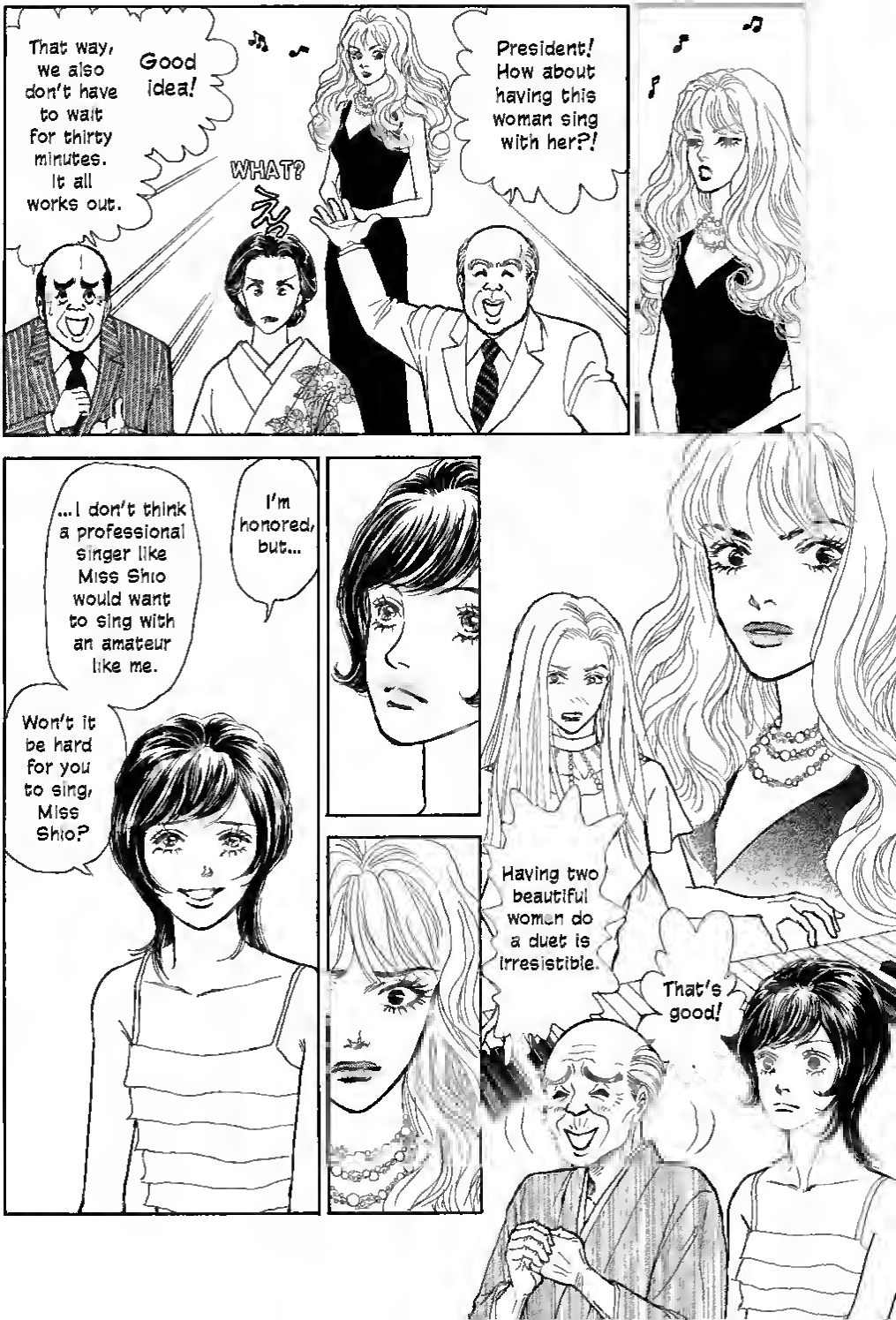

We had a special customer that day, so...
Karaoke is not allowed here.
Am I not allowed to have her sing a little, Mama?
I want to hear Moe's song.
Well...
I want to hear it!
That's a good idea.

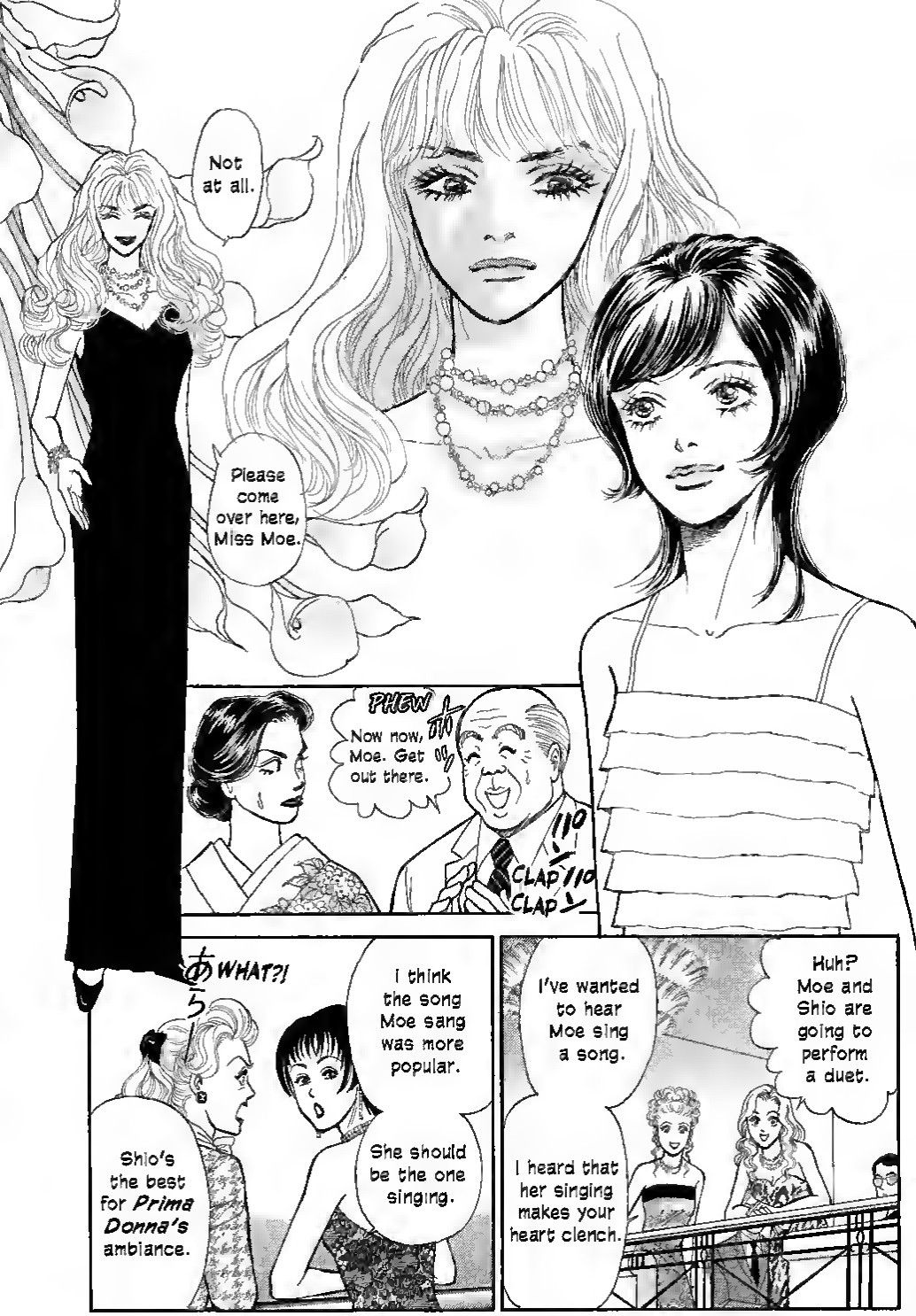
PRIDE 2

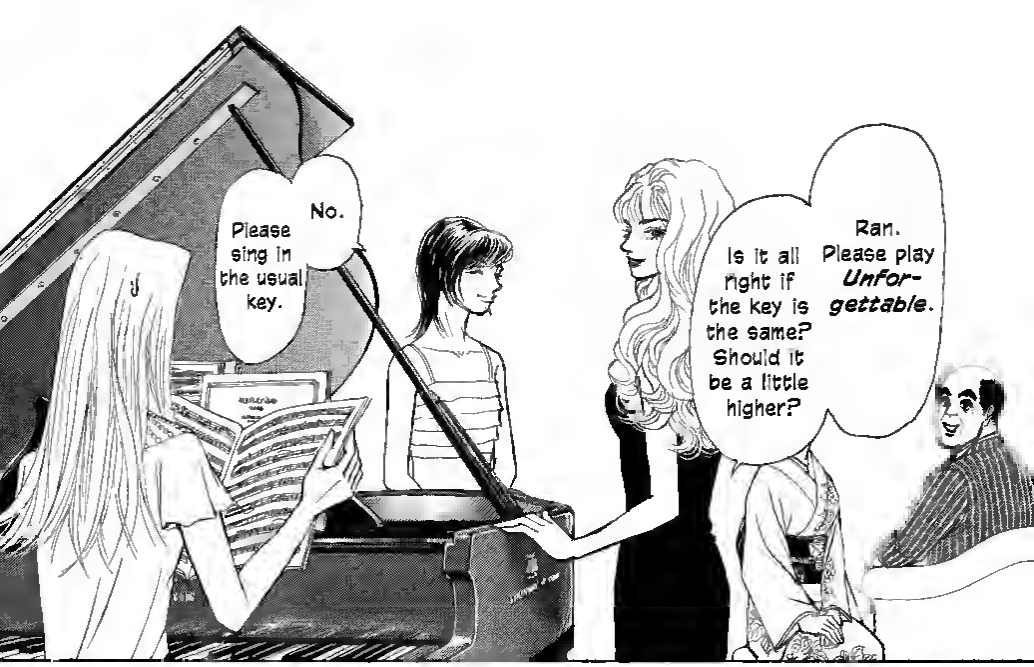
The performance just started now, so please wait thirty minutes.
もーやけ!
OH WELL!
I'll allow enka or whatever you want.
Let's decide on a song while we wait, shall we?
There are still only a few customers
I'll give you extra service and have her sing Mr. Hoshino's favorite song.
I wonder if Moe knows what it is.

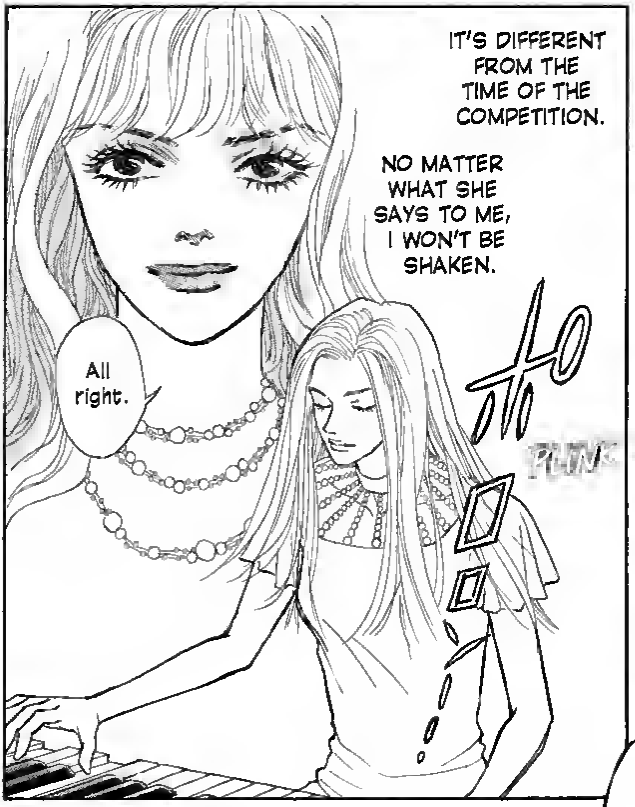

GRUMBLE-GRUMBLE
ぶつぶつ…
I have to wait thirty minutes?
We old people don't have patience. We never know when we'll die.
He went to a friend's funeral today, so he's in a bad mood.
Speaking of President Hoshino, you've been an avid Nat King Cole fan since way back.
They recently put out a duet with his daughter, Natalie Cole.


Ohhh! That's right!
His song, Unforgettable, is famous.
I thought it was a solo song, but the duet was even more splendid.
Hmm... A solo, huh.
A solo's also good, but I want to hear a duet.
It's a standard, so I can sing it.
It may be unsatisfactory as a solo, but...
...I will sing with all my heart for Grandpa Hoshino.
Isn't there anyone who can sing with you?


That way, we also don't have to wait for thirty minutes. It all works out.
Good idea!
WHAT?
President! How about having this woman sing with her?!
...I don't think a professional singer like Miss Shio would want to sing with an amateur like me.
I'm honored, but...
Won't it be hard for you to sing, Miss Shio?
Having two beautiful women do a duet is irresistible.
That's good!


Not at all.
Please come over here, Miss Moe.
PHEW
Now now, Moe. Get out there.
CLAP CLAP
WHAT?!
Shio's the best for *Prima Donna's* ambiance.
I think the song Moe sang was more popular.
She should be the one singing.
I've wanted to hear Moe sing a song.
I heard that her singing makes your heart clench.
Huh? Moe and Shio are going to perform a duet.


No.
Please sing in the usual key.
Ran. Please play *Unforgettable*.
Is it all right if the key is the same? Should it be a little higher?



PRIDE 2 END

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コーラス
QUEEN'S COMICS

プライド 2

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